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US President Bill Clinton greets a child at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas on Friday, as a Secret Service agent (center) looks on. (AP)

Agents' evidence could spur more subpoenas in Lewinsky case

By PETE YOST

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secret Service testimony in an investigation of US President Bill Clinton could spur a new round of subpoenas as prosecutors delve into possible perjury, witness tampering and obstruction of justice, legal experts say.

"If the Secret Service agents and uniformed officers identify other potential witnesses, [Independent Counsel Kenneth] Starr will call them and they may or may not be Secret Service personnel," said John Douglas, a former prosecutor in the Iran-Contra investigation.

The Secret Service, responsible for Clinton's personal security, can answer important questions for Starr.

Was Clinton ever alone with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky? The president has testified he couldn't recall. The Secret Service will know when and where.

What was said when Clinton spoke with the former White House intern? Those who guard the president might be close enough to overhear.

Were there any discussions about thwarting the criminal investigation? Agents or officers could have heard that, too.

"This Secret Service testimony could be a vein of information that Starr's just beginning to tap," said John Barrett, a former prosecutor. "Starr has the green light from the

courts and that means he gets to step on the accelerator."

Lawyers for some of the Secret Service personnel who have been subpoenaed say their clients have no salacious stories to tell about Clinton and Lewinsky.

But Starr said Friday in a Supreme Court filing that his office "is in possession of information that Secret Service personnel may have observed evidence of possible crimes while stationed in and around the White House complex."

Regardless of whether they witnessed crimes, the agents are important witnesses who can establish Clinton's whereabouts on crucial dates and hours of the Lewinsky saga.

Four uniformed division officers testified Friday — retiree Robert Ferguson and currently employed officers Gary Byrne, John Muskett and another currently employed officer.

Byrne saw Lewinsky on her last days at the White House before she was transferred to the Pentagon. The others all knew who Lewinsky was.

The agents' testimony becomes all the more important because the Clinton White House has resisted turning over documents sought by Starr establishing Clinton's whereabouts at key times.

"I would expect Starr would call into the grand jury every single Secret Service agent who could possibly have anything to say

about Monica Lewinsky," said Bruce Yamett, a former federal prosecutor and now a private attorney in New York.

"I believe in the big picture the evidence from the agents will be largely cumulative rather than significant independent evidence," he added. "Presumably, they will corroborate the testimony of others on the whereabouts of Monica Lewinsky when she was in the West Wing, whether the president and she were alone and, if so, for how long."

Clinton's sworn testimony of January 17 denying he had a sexual relationship with Lewinsky provides a starting point for Starr's questioning of Secret Service personnel.

Under questioning by lawyers for Paula Jones in her sexual harassment suit against the president, Clinton testified about being an acquaintance of Lewinsky because she was a friend of his secretary, Betty Currie.

"It seems to me she brought things to me once or twice on the weekends," Clinton testified of Lewinsky.

"In that case, whatever time she would be in there," she would "drop it off, exchange a few words and go."

In her job with the White House office of legislative affairs, said Clinton, Lewinsky would bring materials dealing with various issues when Congress was in session.

Mordechai, Abbas to meet today

PA ultimatum: 13% or no more talks

By JAY BUSHNISKY, STEVE RODAN, MOHAMMED NABSI and news agencies

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to meet with Palestinian Authority deputy leader Mahmoud Abbas today for the start of a new round of talks aimed at clinching a deal on the IDF's next withdrawal in the West Bank.

The venue for the high-profile meeting, held at the urging of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, will be US Ambassador Edward Walker's residence in Herzliya Pituah.

A senior government official said the talks are expected to last for two days, "in the presence" of the American envoy.

PA officials warned, meanwhile, that unless Israel accepts the US proposal for a handover of 13.1 percent of the West Bank to full Palestinian control, these meetings could be the last direct high-level talks between the two sides.

The Palestinian officials said any attempt by Israel to try to

whittle down the US proposals or renegotiate elements of the Oslo Accords would torpedo the talks.

They stressed that Abbas would tell Mordechai that the Palestinians will not agree to any changes in the US plan. This includes an Israeli proposal for a new area designated D, in which

Indyk warns of explosion if talks don't succeed, Page 2

the PA would not be allowed to build without permission and the IDF would not enter unless there is a security reason.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Jawad Anani met with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah yesterday and is to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem today, in an effort seen to signal his country's interest in the talks bearing fruit.

The Jordanians helped expedite the Hebron Agreement by

intervening at a critical stage," a senior government source recalled.

After his talks with Arafat yesterday, Anani said:

"The current situation is sensitive and the region will witness changes on the different tracks."

He refused to go into detail, but implied he was referring to separate talks involving Syria and Lebanon.

Clarifying the prospective scope of Mordechai's talks, Netanyahu told a French TV interviewer that "he has been given the necessary authority to negotiate for the government."

Netanyahu was optimistic about the prospects of closing a deal for the long-awaited pullback. "An agreement is much closer than people realize," he said.

This assessment was made despite the reservations expressed by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon about evacuating more than 9% of the West Bank, as well as his insistence that Mordechai be restricted to only two subjects: deletion of anti-Israeli articles from the

Palestinian Covenant by the Palestinian National Council and definition of Area D.

Media reports speculated that Mordechai planned to suggest setting up joint Palestinian-Israeli committees to discuss redeployment, the PLO Covenant, and security issues. The committees would conclude their work within a week.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said his side intends to listen, not to renegotiate the American formula in accordance with which the IDF would give up 13.1% of the West Bank.

"We just don't want to be blamed for not going," Erekat went on, alluding to Albright's recent call for direct talks between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, "and that's why we're going."

"The meeting with Mr. Mordechai was actually requested by the US as per their year-long efforts, termed the American initiative," PA International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath told reporters.

See TALKS, Page 2

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Treaty to create permanent int'l war crimes tribunal

Israel votes 'nay' over clause condemning settlements

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday hailed a treaty creating the world's first permanent international war crimes tribunal as a "giant step forward" and appealed to a reluctant US to join the pact.

But Israel, one of the initiators of the tribunal, was forced to vote against its establishment on the grounds the Arab countries had

politicized it by including an article determining that the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip constitute "war crimes."

The article also enables the prosecution of anyone who acts to transfer population in the territories.

Annan spoke at the treaty's signing ceremony in Rome. The historic treaty won overwhelming approval Friday night after nearly five weeks of talks and years of preliminary negotiations.

"It's a great hope and a giant step forward in the rule of law that a few years ago nobody would have thought possible," Annan said. "No doubt many of us would have liked a court vested with even more powers, but we must not minimize the

breakthrough of this achievement. "I hope the US and other countries will come aboard," Annan said. "I hope the US position is not final. I regret we couldn't bridge all the differences."

The landmark treaty, created a half-century after the Nuremberg trials, would, if ratified, create a permanent international court to prosecute genocide and war crimes.

After a five-week UN meeting in Rome, 120 nations endorsed the treaty in a secret ballot. Seven voted against it and 21 abstained. The opponents included Israel, the US, Libya, Algeria, Qatar and China.

See TRIBUNAL, Page 2



مَكْرَزًا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

NEWS

in brief

Sharansky to meet Gore about Iran

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is scheduled to fly to the US today for talks with US Vice President Al Gore about the ongoing Israeli-American effort to stop the flow of Russian missile technology to Iran.

The trip to Washington was prompted by Sharansky's meeting last week with Russian Federal Security Service chief Nikolai Kovalyov and his telephone conversations with the head of the Russian National Security Council head Andrei Kokoshin.

Jay Bushinsky

Jewish passengers stab Palestinian driver

A Palestinian taxi driver from Silwan was stabbed Friday morning in Jerusalem by two Jewish passengers.

The driver, Ala Karam, who picked up the two passengers before dawn in the Talpoteh neighborhood, was stabbed in the waist and taken to Shaare Zedek Hospital. His relatives quoted him as saying the two Jews were kippot.

Jerusalem police are investigating the incident, with one direction being that it had "nationalist motives." There have been a number of attacks against Palestinians by Jews in Jerusalem during recent months, mostly in Mea Shearim.

Itim

Hussein has more medical tests at Mayo

Jordan's King Hussein is still undergoing tests at Mayo Clinic for a recurrent fever but is feeling better, the clinic said yesterday. Clinic spokeswoman Jane Jacobs said it was unclear what was causing the fevers and when Hussein, who was admitted to the clinic on Tuesday, might be discharged.

The 62-year-old monarch, a heavy smoker who had cancer surgery in 1992, has returned to the Mayo Clinic several times for checkups since his surgery. He said before he left Amman that he was seeking a precise diagnosis for recurrent fevers, striking him about three times a day.

Reuters

Channel Two: Israel selling arms to Ethiopia

Israel is selling weapons to Ethiopia for use in its war with Eritrea, Channel Two reported last night.

In recent days, Elbit has signed a \$30 million deal to upgrade 10 Ethiopian MiG-21s in the coming months, the report said.

Itim

Lebanon to elect new president in October

Lebanon's parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri yesterday ruled out the possibility of extending the term of President Elias Hrawi and insisted fresh presidential elections would take place.

Hrawi, like Berri a close Syrian ally, has held office since 1989. But in 1995, Lebanon's parliament backed a constitutional amendment to extend the presidential term by three years "for one time only." This extension expires on November 24, 1998.

As Lebanon's constitution now stands, the 128-member parliament, made up mostly of pro-Syrian MPs, is due to elect a new president in October.

Reuters

Iran pulls wrestlers out of US trip

Iran's state sports organization has canceled a trip by the national wrestling squad to take part in the Goodwill Games in New York, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The daily Khyber said the trip, part of a recent expansion in contacts between the two estranged countries, had been dropped after Iran's state sports organization said the 15-day trip would be a waste of money.

Mohammed Reza Talekani, vice-president of the wrestling federation, was quoted by the newspaper as saying the decision would tarnish the prestige of Iran's powerful wrestling team in the eyes of the world.

An Iranian squad is still scheduled to take part in another US trip, to the world youth wrestling championships in California later this summer, the newspaper said.

Reuters

Warm welcome for British warships in Syria

Syria has warmly welcomed two British warships which have docked at the port of Latakia on a courtesy visit, the first in 48 years, British Ambassador Basil Eastwood said yesterday.

The frigates Marlborough and RFA Fort Victoria docked on Friday and are due to stay in Latakia until Tuesday. There are plans for a number of joint activities with the Syrian Navy.

Eastwood said earlier this month that the visit could lead to military cooperation between Syria and Britain. A Syrian officer is due to attend a military course in Britain soon.

Reuters

Soldier wounded by firebomb

An IDF soldier sustained light burns last night after being struck by a firebomb that was thrown at the troops while they were on patrol in Hebron. He was treated at the scene and then taken to a hospital.

Earlier yesterday in Hebron, two Palestinian youths were detained by the IDF after throwing rocks at settlers, police said.

News agencies

Burg orders suit against Swiss banks

Following the denial by Swiss bankers that they proposed doubling the indemnification for Jewish property looted during the Holocaust, Jewish Agency Chairman Abraham Burg, acting as chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, yesterday ordered its legal advisers to speed up the preparation of a class-action suit against all Swiss financial institutions.

Itim

Youth arrested in Kiryat Shmona arson

A 16-year-old boy was arrested Friday on suspicion he started a fire in Kiryat Shmona earlier that day that seriously damaged a five-story apartment building, forcing 24 families out of their homes.

The youth, who was released to house arrest, allegedly set fire to the roof of the building.

Because the building is close to the fire station, firefighters arrived within minutes and managed to bring the blaze under control quickly. Two residents suffered smoke inhalation and two suffered bruises while fleeing the building.

Itim

Palestinians: 2,003 homes wrecked since Oslo

The Palestinian Ministry of Local Councils said yesterday that IDF had demolished 2,003 houses or temporary living quarters since the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993.

Some 550 of the demolitions have been carried out since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in 1996, through the end of 1997.

Since 1997, 60 homes have reportedly been wrecked, 19 of them in June and 11 in July.

Mohammed Najib and Itim

Two Druze youths stabbed in Nahariya

Two youths from Harfeish village in the Galilee were stabbed late Friday night by members of a Jewish youth gang in Nahariya who allegedly told them they were not welcome in the town because they were Arabs. One youth was stabbed in the chest and moderately wounded, and the other was lightly hurt in the leg. Police said the gang members, who fled, are known to accept passersby and that they would soon be apprehended.

Itim

Fire breaks out in Ayalon prison

A fire erupted late last night at the Ramle jail, injuring at least 8 people. The cause of the blaze was under investigation.

Itim

With Oslo Accords foundering as deadline approaches

Indyk warns of 'explosion'

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is concerned that "a potentially very explosive situation" could occur if Israel and the Palestinians are not making significant strides toward attaining a final-status agreement by next May, when the interim accord expires.

Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk went on to say several times, in a speech Friday to an ORT convention, that a "very dangerous situation" could follow from the expiration of the Oslo Accord if the negotiations remain frozen or if both sides resort to unilateral acts next year.

Indyk called the agreement that the US has been attempting to broker "very detailed" because it aims to cover "every single obligation of both sides," along with a timetable requiring "the Palestinians on one side to live up to every one of their commitments and, of course, the same will be true for Israel."

"We have a sense of great urgency about this effort," Indyk told the group, in an address that dealt solely with

the stalemate in the peace talks.

"It's not just that things have stalled out and the mood is sour and people are disillusioned on both sides with the peace process."

"It's also that the clock is ticking down to May 4th of 1999. And if we do not succeed in getting to a permanent status deal by then, or at least having the permanent status negotiations on track in a way that both sides have an interest in staying in the negotiations until they produce an agreement, if we can't achieve either of those things, then we will face a potentially very explosive situation."

"For when the interim agreement expires, if there is nothing to replace it, the Palestinians have said that they will unilaterally declare an independent Palestinian state. And Israelis have said that they would respond to such a potential declaration by annexing areas of the West Bank."

"The consequences of such unilateral actions by both sides are unpredictable, but we can say for certain, very dangerous."

The comments were the administration's most detailed yet on its fears upon the lapse of the five-year interim

period next spring.

An American official said Friday that he is "not optimistic" about the prospects for progress in today's Yitzhak Mordechai-Mahmoud Abbas meeting, the first direct Israeli-Palestinian dialogue since the US intensified its involvement in the negotiations last year.

"There were London meetings, Gaza meetings, internal [Israeli] cabinet meetings, kitchen cabinet meetings — what's another meeting?" he said.

But he said that the Palestinian Authority acceded to the Americans' "heavy pressure" to resume direct talks because the PA realizes it is in its interest to attain an agreement soon.

"The Palestinians want closure on the crisis mode. They understand after all these months they're not going to get what they want from Bibi," he said.

In his speech Friday, Indyk called on Israel and the PA not to take steps "that would be perceived as preempting the outcome of the permanent-status negotiations" and emphasized that the administration is not trying "to impose an American plan."

Assad: Europe must force Israeli concessions

By DOUGLAS DAVIS
and news agencies

Syrian President Hafez Assad concluded a three-day official visit to France yesterday by acknowledging Europe's desire for a Middle East settlement, but saying coordination is needed to bring pressure on Israel to make concessions.

"The countries of Europe and other parties want the peace process to succeed, and France is doing much in this regard, but coordination is deficient among the sides interested in furthering the process," Assad told reporters.

"The United States does not want to pressure Israel," he continued, adding that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does not show a sign of willingness to give and take.

"As long as the peace process is not alive, I cannot say there will be a change in the situation," Assad said. "Not just we, but all those involved, including the US, do not see or sense any change. In Israel from time to time talk of reviving the peace process is heard — but it's clear that such talk is only among themselves."

In other matters, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said a strategic partnership between Syria and France would serve the interests of both sides. He told Radio France International yesterday that such a partnership would strengthen Europe's role in the Middle East and correct the "great imbalance in the region."

Senior Arab analysts in London believe Assad's visit was of exceptional importance and that it is likely to lead to a long-term strategic partnership that serves the interests and ambitions of both sides.

France, they say, is driven by a desire to expand its trading mar-



Syrian President Hafez Assad gestures to reporters in Paris on Friday.

(AP)

kets and to establish a pivotal political role for itself in the region, while Syria is seeking a strong and sympathetic Western ally to enhance its international standing and to facilitate its integration into the global economy. Not least, as Shara indicated, both would like to see France balance, if not actually supersede, the US as the sole external power and arbiter in the region.

Indeed, the very idea of a strate-

gic partnership is, in large part, a function of Washington's perceived weakness, which has triggered a dramatic hemorrhage in US credibility in the region.

This has been highlighted by a string of failures over the past year, including the failure to muster Arab support for the Qatari economic summit last year, the failure to convince America's regional allies to line up against Iraq during the Gulf crisis earlier

this year, and the failure to make progress on the peace process.

Moreover, note the analysts, France and Syria now share a common approach to some of the most pressing political issues in the region, notably their broad agreement on ending sanctions against Iraq, their shared antipathy to Turkey, and their conviction that Israel must unconditionally withdraw from south Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

UNIFIL says Hizbullah using UN positions as cover

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah has twice recently fired mortars at targets in the security zone from close to UN positions, UNIFIL has charged in a complaint to the Lebanese Army.

The complaint was apparently the first since the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group was established in which the peacekeepers have accused Hizbullah of using the proximity of UN forces as a cover for attacking either the IDF or South Lebanese Army in the zone.

UNIFIL called the recent shootings a breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

It also protested to the Lebanese Army about incidents in which mortar rounds, apparently fired by Hizbullah gunmen, exploded close to UN positions.

The incidents all occurred around the same time last Thursday morning during a concerted long-range Hizbullah attack on SLA positions in the western sector of the security zone. A SLA officer was killed by one of the mortar rounds during the course of the attacks.

UNIFIL sources said that during the exchanges, which occurred between 4:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m., two of the mortar rounds fired by "armed elements," a euphemism used by the peacekeeping force to describe Hizbullah and other organizations, exploded close to an Irish battalion position in the area of Barasheet village.

One of the rounds exploded within five meters of the UN position, causing damage to buildings but no casualties. The other fell

100 meters away. "These incidents are of very grave concern to UNIFIL, as they could have resulted in serious injury or loss of life," said UNIFIL's acting spokesman Dajet Bagga.

Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, claimed responsibility for the long-range attacks on the SLA positions in the zone in which the SLA officer was killed.

UNIFIL said the incidents of firing mortars from close to UN posts occurred at the same time near the Irish battalion's headquarters in Tibnin and near another post manned by Irish troops in the area of Ayta az-Zout village.

"The irresponsible action of the armed elements is unacceptable and is strongly protested," said

Bagga. "These actions are a clear breach of the agreement that firing would not take place from in the vicinity of UNIFIL positions."

UNIFIL had earlier protested to the IDF over an incident last

Tuesday in which mortars fired from a SLA position in the zone exploded close to a UN vehicle near Harris village, wounding a UNIFIL soldier in the car and a Lebanese pedestrian.

The Knesset Knesset Visits

Due to renovations which will be carried out in the Knesset during the month of August 1998, there will be no tours of the building during that period.

Golden Age Section

The Jerusalem Post will publish a special section devoted to our "Golden Age" community.

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Mofaz completes General Staff appointments

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, with the approval of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, has completed the final round of General Staff appointments by promoting four officers to major-general.

Another four men were appointed to new posts and three elevated to brigadier-generals. All of the appointments will become effective over the coming months, the IDF Spokesman said.

There has been jockeying and lobbying among the IDF brass for the past few months, but none of the appointments was surprising and none is expected to cause waves.

The most senior promotion was of Dan Halutz, deputy commander of the IAF, to the post of assistant to the deputy chief of the General Staff for operations. He will take over from Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy, who will assume control of the Northern Command. Halutz, 49, is expected to become the next head of the IAF and his promotion to the General Staff is a traditional step on this path. He has been promoted to major-general.

Brig.-Gen. Yudek Segev, currently the chief of manpower directorate, has been named OC Manpower Branch. Choosing someone from within Manpower Branch instead of an outsider breaks a decade-long practice and sends a message to officers in other non-combat branches that they, too, can reach top slots.

Segev, 47, takes over from Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer and is promoted to major-general.

Brig.-Gen. Aharon Ze'evi Farkash, deputy OC Planning Branch, was named OC Logistics and Technology Branch, taking over from Maj.-Gen. Amlaz Sagis, who is retiring. Sagis had twice postponed his retirement so a replacement could be chosen. Farkash, 50, also receives the rank of major-general.

The fourth officer promoted to major-general is Doron Almog, currently director of doctrine and training. Doron, 47, is a veteran paratrooper officer and was given a senior field command, the IDF Spokesman announced. He holds a PhD in international relations.

OC Artillery Corps Brig.-Gen. Dan Harel was appointed Mordechai's military aide, a post being vacated by Brig.-Gen. Ya'akov Amidror.

Amidror, 50, will take over command of the military colleges. Col. Eli Yaffe, 41, was assigned to Harel's position as OC Artillery Corps and is promoted to brigadier-general.

Other appointments include Col. Oram Tishor as provost marshal. Tishor, 41, takes over from Brig.-Gen. Niram Goldbrum, who is leaving the Military Police to become the IDF attaché in Poland.

Finally, Col. Azie Fishbein was promoted to commander of the IAF anti-aircraft forces in place of Brig.-Gen. Gilad Ramot, who is retiring from military service. Both Fishbein, 44, and Tishor, 45, are promoted to brigadier-general.



Buenos Aires bombing remembered

Luis Goldenberg comforts his wife, Laura, at a ceremony in Buenos Aires on Friday marking the fourth anniversary of the 1994 terrorist bombing of the city's AMIA Jewish community center that killed 86 people — one of them their daughter, Cynthia. (AP)

Guards thwart jailbreak by dangerous prisoners

By DAVID HEDGE

Prisons Service guards yesterday thwarted — at the last minute — a tunnel breakout by four dangerous security prisoners at the Shata Prison, off the Afula-Beit She'an road.

A guard who was on duty in one of the watchtowers spotted suspicious movement and heard noises just outside the wall of the prison around 3 a.m.

"He examined the area and spotted somebody emerging from an excavation in the ground by the wall," said Prisons Service spokeswoman Orit Messer-Harel.

"He acted promptly and immediately alerted the standby forces, who went to the area immediately. They saw two others coming out of the hole. They surrounded the escapees, fired in the air, captured them and returned them to the jail."

It transpired later that another prisoner had been part of the escape plan but had not succeeded in crawling through the tunnel before the other three were caught and returned.

The four had spent a month digging the tunnel which ran from under tiles in the cell they shared with seven other prisoners to just outside the prison's main wall.

The prisoners — two convicted for murdering collaborators in the territories and two awaiting trial on similar offenses — are considered to be highly dangerous.

Two are members of Hamas, another from Fatah and the fourth from an unidentified organization.

They were identified as Ibrahim Shalash, a member of Hamas, who was sentenced to two life terms and 30 years for murder and other offenses and Abbas Shabana, also a member of Hamas, who was serving an 18-year sentence for homicide.

The other two are Fatah member Samir Hafida, and Muatsham Muchsi.

Prisons Service head Amos Azani appointed a special inquiry team to investigate all the aspects of the abortive breakout, particularly how the prisoners managed to dig for over a month without it being noticed by any of the prison guards.

Azani went to the scene yesterday and led the initial inquiry, which revealed that the prisoners had used a metal bar, broken off one of the beds, as their main digging tool.

The four had dug up two tiles in the floor of the cell and had burrowed downwards to a depth of one-and-a-half meters. From there they had branched out towards the prison's main wall for a distance of 19 meters and had made an opening just outside the main wall.

The prisoners apparently replaced the tiles after every digging session and moved a closet over them so that the loose tiles and other signs of digging would not be noticed.

Azani relayed details of the initial findings to prison wardens throughout the country yesterday, so they could prevent similar occurrences.

Leah Rabin slams PM 'character assassination' complaint

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Leah Rabin on Friday accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "blood libel" against former prime ministers Shimon Peres and the late Yitzhak Rabin, with his reported comments that they had refrained from acting against Nahum Manbar for political reasons.

"I see this as one more despicable attempt by the prime minister to exploit an extremely delicate security matter to bash the previous prime ministers, meaning Peres and the late Rabin, who cannot fight back," Rabin said.

She said she did not believe Netanyahu's denials that he has no criticism of Rabin and Peres's

conduct regarding the Manbar affair.

"We've heard enough denials from him, already. Netanyahu said those things to the diplomatic reporters and [the story] appeared in the same words in *Ha'aretz*, which attributed it to Netanyahu, and in *Yediot Aharonot* which attributed it to a 'senior source,'" she said.

Commenting on Netanyahu's charge on Friday, that what the opposition had said about him was "character assassination," she said: "He gave the best show in town, saying he was being persecuted, complaining how miserable he was. We all know how they [the Likud and right-wing leaders] conducted a character

assassination against my husband, and didn't spare me, either. "So Netanyahu doesn't have to...complain that for two years, poor thing, his character is being assassinated. It was so ridiculous, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry."

She said the public would not buy the attempt to place Labor on the side of the "traitor Manbar," adding: "I'd like to remind you that Rabin was murdered, and now he's an easy target for them to attack, because he cannot answer back. They wouldn't dare touch this affair had he been alive, I promise you."

Rabin criticized Labor Party leader Ehud Barak for not issuing a sharp enough statement

regarding Netanyahu's charges against the former prime ministers.

"I think Labor must respond in the same tone to the Likud's attacks. Not a week goes by without attacks on us and the previous government. I'd like to hear a much more aggressive Barak. That's the only way he'll be heard," she said.

Senior Labor sources yesterday accused Netanyahu and his associates of "character assassination" against Rabin even after his death.

"This political exploitation of the affair by the prime minister and his men is extremely grave," MK Avraham Shohat said yesterday.

"Those allegations were made in the prime minister's office, and were corroborated by the recorded telephone call attorney Pinat Yanai made, that Bazar had told her of the intention to pin the charge on Rabin and Peres," he said.

MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, commenting on Netanyahu's charge that Labor's conduct was spreading hatred, said, "Hayet is being spread by those innuendos from the Prime Minister's Office that the Rabin-Peres governments had allegedly sheltered a traitor, while he, Netanyahu, ordered his arrest."

Ben-Ami called to put an end to the "rhetoric and hints of treason and hatred for hatred's sake."

Two killed, 20 hurt on roads

Two people were killed and 20 others wounded during automobile accidents over the weekend, according to police reports.

Hanna Gershenson, 70, from Beersheba, was killed Friday in a hit-and-run accident in the city. She was run over while crossing the intersection between Masada and Shimonon streets at 10:30 a.m.

In Bnei Brak, Yosef Zeicherman, 52, from Lod, was killed Friday night near the Ayalon mall. Police say Zeicherman lost control of the wheel of his car for an unknown reason, drove onto the sidewalk, and hit a barrier.

In Rishon LeZion, six people were wounded, three of them seriously Friday evening, when a vehicle driven by a woman from Holon swerved into the opposite lane. It collided head-on with a truck. The drivers and passengers from both vehicles were taken to Asaf Harofeh Hospital.

In Haifa, 14 people were lightly wounded in a pile-up involving six vehicles on Friday. (tm)

Iran: Manbar's trial political

News agencies

The trial of Nahum Manbar, found guilty of selling chemical weapons to Iran was a politically motivated "spectacle," the Iranian government said yesterday.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmoud Mohammadi, said Israel mounted the trial to portray Iran as a country trying to acquire chemical weapons even though Iran has been lobbying against them.

"The aim of this politicized judicial trickery by Israel was ... a consequence of Israeli concerns that

Iran was pursuing a policy against the use of chemical weapons," Mohammadi was quoted as saying by the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

He accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of pressuring the trial judge and defense lawyers, revealing "the main Israeli objectives in holding this spectacle of a trial."

Manbar was sentenced Thursday to 16 years in jail.

Meanwhile, Avi Cohen, the former head of the police intelligence division, told him over the weekend that he had warned Manbar to stop

his connections with Iran. Cohen at the time was head of the national investigations unit, and was investigating the criminal allegations against Manbar.

Cohen said Manbar had told him that his connections with Iran were known and his activities were not secret. Cohen was told at this point by the state attorney and the intelligence services to warn Manbar that his activities were illegal and involved sensitive issues.

Cohen said he believed that further investigation into what has become known as the Strashnov Affair would incriminate others.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Law and politics

"When the dust — from the scandals, court appeals and gossip — that covers the Nahum Manbar trial disappears, we will be faced with the real questions that have not yet been answered," writes *Ma'ariv's* Ben Caspit.

Referring to allegations made by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that preceding governments hindered efforts to bring Manbar to trial, Caspit says they amounted to "cheap slander."

He adds that Netanyahu, who later denied making the accusations, feels he has gained from this affair because he has "succeeded in catching a traitor, avenging a man who had contributed to the Labor Party, and presenting himself as one who fights evil."

Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Barnea writes that a propaganda campaign using Manbar was planned in Netanyahu's office during the past year.

He adds that Netanyahu was lucky that a man working with Manbar was willing to become a state witness during his tenure. "Manbar's verdict did not interest him [Netanyahu]; he was interested in the political use of the Manbar trial in order to kick Labor..." He acted in this case, the same way he did a few months before Rabin's assassination.

Ha'aretz's Hanna Kim claims that Netanyahu was interested in presenting himself as the man who

caught Manbar, but has caused damage in the process. "If he would have restrained himself instead of turning it into another boastful political campaign, even before the verdict was presented, it is doubtful whether the whole Strashnov Affair would have blown up."

No redeployment

The stalemate in the peace process has brought about a change in the coalition, states *Yediot's* Shimon Schiffer, who claims that last week MKs and ministers reached the conclusion that "Netanyahu is not planning on implementing a redeployment."

According to *Ha'aretz's* Uzi Ben-Ziman, despite Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's optimism and faith in Netanyahu, "there are no surprises: the Oslo process is still at a dead end, even if Yitzhak Mordechai is unaware of it."

Ma'ariv's Caspit writes that the second redeployment has never been so far away. Concealed from the public eye, a battle is being waged over the second redeployment over different maps supported by the Third Way and the National Religious Party.

Tax on health

Finance Minister Yacov Neeman's proposal to impose an

additional health tax on visits to the doctor is necessary, according to *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid. While aware of the problem it poses for the lower classes, "You cannot impose the whole operation of the medical service upon the rich, only. The public must carry the load."

Yossi Dahan, writing in *Yediot*, harshly criticizes Neeman's plan, saying: "Neeman's hatred for taxes is selective. The finance minister is an enthusiastic supporter of imposing taxes on the sick and elderly."

He finds the idea that the tax will decrease visits to the doctor to be ridiculous. He suggests that the employers pay the tax, "but Neeman does not want to deal with the employers. It is easier for him to impose the tax on...the chronic patients."

French revolution

Following France's first victory in the World Cup, commentators remarked on the social changes that the country is undergoing. The fact that the victorious team, consisting of minorities, has brought pride to the country may signal a move away from xenophobia, they observed.

"This is probably a new France, a new world," wrote Uri Savir in *Ma'ariv*. "Pride, unlike in the past, that is free from xenophobia. Patriotism in the age of globalization."

As you conclude the latest round of negotiations, and mindful of your profound appreciation of the historical parallels, I respectfully remind you of some of the highlights of a peace process conducted in the not-too-distant past.

May 12, 1938 - Konrad Henlein, leader of the Sudeten-German SDP movement, meets with members of the British Government, informing them of the Sudeten-German proposal for peace, based on the following framework:

1. Sudeten German regions would control local autonomy in Czech occupied territories.
2. The autonomous Sudeten government would control local police, postal service and certain tax collections.
3. Disputes over territorial boundaries would be resolved by an international tribunal.

September 7, 1938 - Henlein breaks off negotiations with the Czech Government, citing police excesses at Movarska-Ostrava.

September 12, 1938 - Speaking in Nuremberg, Hitler calls for "justice to be given to the Sudeten Germans" by October 1.

September 14, 1938 - Henlein delivers an ultimatum to the Czech Government, demanding:

1. Withdrawal of the Czech police from the "occupied" Sudetenland.
2. Separation of Czech military installations from the civilian population in Sudeten territories.

September 21, 1938 - British and French diplomats inform Czech President Benes that surrender of the Sudetenland to Germany is "the only means of averting war..." and that if the Czechs refuse, they will "bear the responsibility for the war."

September 22, 1938 - Chamberlain personally notifies Hitler that the British Government would accept German annexation of the Sudetenland. Hitler answers: "Ja, es tut mir leid, aber das geht nicht mehr." - Yes, I am very sorry, but that will no longer be acceptable. Hitler now insists that Polish and Hungarian territorial claims to Czechoslovakia must be resolved by October 1.

September 23, 1938 - Hitler furnishes the British Government with his written proposal, calling for Czech evacuation of the Sudetenland in 48 hours, commencing the following Monday. Any Czech found on Reich soil will be arrested or shot as a trespasser.

September 30, 1938 - The Czech Government accepts the German occupation of the Sudetenland, in return for formal French and British assurances, guaranteeing the sovereignty of the remainder of Czechoslovakia.

November 2, 1938 - Hungary obtains 4,600 square miles of Czech territory, as a result of German "arbitration." Neither the British nor the French governments take steps against this military occupation.

March 15, 1939 - Czechoslovakia ceases to exist. Neither the French nor British governments intervene.

Speaking in the House of Commons on October 3, 1938, immediately after the Munich Agreement was signed, Winston Churchill warned:

"...Do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip - the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year - unless, by a supreme recovery of our moral health and martial vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom, as in olden times."

Mr. Prime Minister. You did not set in motion the policies that make the Czech crisis of 1938 analogous to Israel's dilemma in 1998, but it is your duty to ensure that history does not repeat itself.

Former Naval Person

Ramle church claims land sold fraudulently

Israeli and US police are investigating the possibly fraudulent sale of Roman Catholic Church property worth millions of dollars to an Israeli businessman, a lawyer for the church said Friday.

The probe began after the custodian of church properties in the Middle East, Father Joseph Lazaro, said his signature had been forged on a sales contract involving 120 dunams of olive groves owned by the church in Ramle.

The Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches, which have vast land holdings in Israel and the West Bank, have been careful not to violate a Palestinian Authority prohibition on land sales to Jews. This is, in part, because most of their flock are Palestinians.

Molien Khoury, a lawyer for the Roman Catholic Church, said the church only learned of the sale from the Israel Lands Authority, which received copies of the transaction with Lazaro's signature.

As custodian, Lazaro is the only one who can authorize the sale of Roman Catholic property in the Middle East.

"We immediately informed police of the fraud and won a court order to freeze the sale until the investigation is complete," Khoury said Friday.

Israeli police are investigating the authenticity of a document with Lazaro's signature which claims a Christian resident of Ramle was authorized by a Franciscan group in Chicago to sell

the property, said Israeli police spokeswoman Leah Zohar.

The Ramle resident's signature, in turn, appeared on a sales document to an Israeli from Ramat Gan, Zohar said.

"Father Lazaro did not sign any document or give anyone any power of attorney," Khoury said.

Khoury said the church was informed that Israeli police were conducting a joint investigation with their counterparts in the United States to determine the authenticity of the documents.

Khoury would not say how much money was involved in the sale, but said the land is worth several million dollars. (AP)



Lighting a torch for peace

Shadi Moezlep of Kfar Makr (left) and Gilad Sadan of Hadera congratulate one another on lighting a peace torch last Thursday, as Canadian Ambassador David Berger looks on. Some 800 Canadian Jewish youth gathered at Lake Kinneret as part of the second annual Canada-Israel Experience, sponsored by the UIA of Canada, the Jewish Agency, and the Charles Bronfman Foundation.

(Joe Malachuk)

'Aryan Nations' march through northern Idaho

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) - After months of police preparations and divisive debate, the northern Idaho community of Coeur d'Alene played unwilling host yesterday to a march by the Aryan Nations white supremacist group.

About 50 Aryan Nations members and supporters lined up at the starting point of their march, carrying flags of the United States and other nations, along with Confederate flags and a flag bearing the Aryan Nations logo - a sword and crown in a format resembling a swastika.

The Aryan Nations' 80-year-old

leader, Richard Butler, spoke about his group's philosophy about the superiority of the white race.

About 200 protesters and spectators gathered to watch and one - Barney Larson of Spokane, Washington - blew a whistle to block out Butler's voice.

"Who needs butchers in our area? They just want to destroy our country and the constitution," said Larson, who said he was with the Gay Men's Action Group.

Police stretched out yellow tape to separate the marchers from the opponents and counterdemonstrators.

The loudest opposition was expected to come from the Jewish Defense League's Irv Rubin, who had a permit to operate a loudspeaker.

And for every minute of the march, the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations said it would rack up \$1,001 in pledges in a "Lemons to Lemonsade" fund raiser.

"This is an event of outsiders coming in to use our city as a platform for their extremist views," said Mayor Steve Judy, who said he could not legally block the march by the group

based in Hayden, north of Coeur d'Alene.

The mayor asked the 24,000 residents of the lakeside city to steer clear of the march - and some followed his advice.

Most of the approximately 80 retail businesses downtown planned to close during the march. Theaters, skating rinks, bowling alleys and a water park offered discounts in hopes of drawing young people away from the march.

But owners of a handful of other shops said shutting their doors would amount to giving the marchers the keys to the city.

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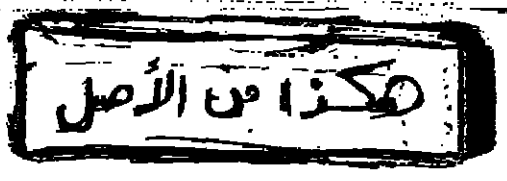
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Russia buries last royal family

By PHILIPPA FLETCHER

ST PETERSBURG (Reuters) — Russia buried the remains of its last czar and his family Friday, exactly 80 years after they were shot dead by Bolshevik revolutionaries in what President Boris Yeltsin called a "monstrous crime."

"The reprisal in Yekaterinburg was one of the most shameful pages of our history," said Yeltsin, standing before nine small coffins containing the bones of Nicholas II, his wife, three of their children, three servants and the family doctor.

Yeltsin only announced Thursday that he would fly to St. Petersburg for the ceremony and Communist deputies condemned his decision, saying the czar had been a brutal autocrat and that the president's attendance would divide society.

The shooting dead of the Romanov family is the result of an uncompromising split in Russia into "us" and "them." The results of this split can be seen even now," he told the congregation of relatives of the czar, foreign ambassadors and officials.

The funeral of the czar and his family, whose remains were discovered in a forest grave in 1991, has stirred fierce controversy among politicians and within the Orthodox Church.

Officials earlier said Yeltsin would stay away due to the position of the Orthodox Church, which wields considerable influence in post-Communist Russia and is split over the legacy of czarist and communist leaders to whom it was subservient.

Moscow Patriarch Alexy refused to conduct the ceremony citing doubts over the identity of the bones and instead held a separate service near the capital in memory of the czar attended by a small group of relatives who claim they are his heirs.

By flying to St. Petersburg, Yeltsin risked losing the moral support of the church, but he gained an important symbolic link with a rich history broken by 70 years of Communist rule.

"Burying the victims of the Yekaterinburg tragedy is an act of humane justice, a symbol of unity in Russia and redemption of common guilt," he said.

After the service in the cathedral which was the burial place for Russian czars since Peter the Great died in 1725, the president bowed low before the grave. A 19-gun salute rang out as Nicholas's coffin was lowered, in an eerie reminder of the firing squad which shot the family in a basement in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg during a civil war between the Bolsheviks and the czar's supporters.

Emperors used to get a 21-gun salute but Nicholas had abdicated the throne in the face of popular protests in 1917.

Alongside his coffin in a specially prepared vault in a side-chapel of the cathedral lay those of his wife Alexandra and his daughters Olga, Tatiana and Anastasia. Coffins containing the three servants and the family doctor were placed beneath them.

The bones of two of the children, the Tsarevich Alexei and his sister Maria, are still missing.

DNA tests conducted in Russia and abroad confirmed the identity of the remains to a 99.9 percent degree of certainty but the Orthodox Church abroad, which split off after the revolution, claims the real remains are in a church in Belgium.

The local priest, assigned by church leaders to conduct the funeral on their behalf, did not name those buried during the ceremony but instead referred to all the innocent victims of the revolution, adding: "You, Lord, know their names."

The authorities of the city Peter founded, dubbed the Venice of the North because of its elegant, if faded, buildings and waterways, are strapped for cash like the rest of Russia and have complained that Moscow did not send funds for the funeral. But they insist the use of wooden memorial plaques made to look like marble and marked with stick-on gold lettering are only temporary and that the real thing will follow.

Maria Romanova, who claims she and her 16-year-old son Georgy are Nicholas II's rightful heirs, said after the service in Moscow that the whole burial should be done again on a grander scale once doubts over the bones are removed.

By ADAM BROWN

PRISTINA (AP) — Secessionist guerrillas advanced on a central Kosovo town yesterday in what ethnic Albanian sources described as their largest offensive in almost five months of combat against Serb security forces.

Farther southwest, intense Serb shelling of a border area with Albania was reported to have left an unspecified number of people dead and wounded and briefly sent 80 panicked residents into a deadly minefield.

Serb-ethnic Albanian fighting was also reported at another border region, west of Decani. The Serbian Media Center said as many as 1,000 armed people had tried to cross from Albania. Most were driven back, but about 200 who made it into Kosovo were battling border troops, aided by guerrillas already in the area.

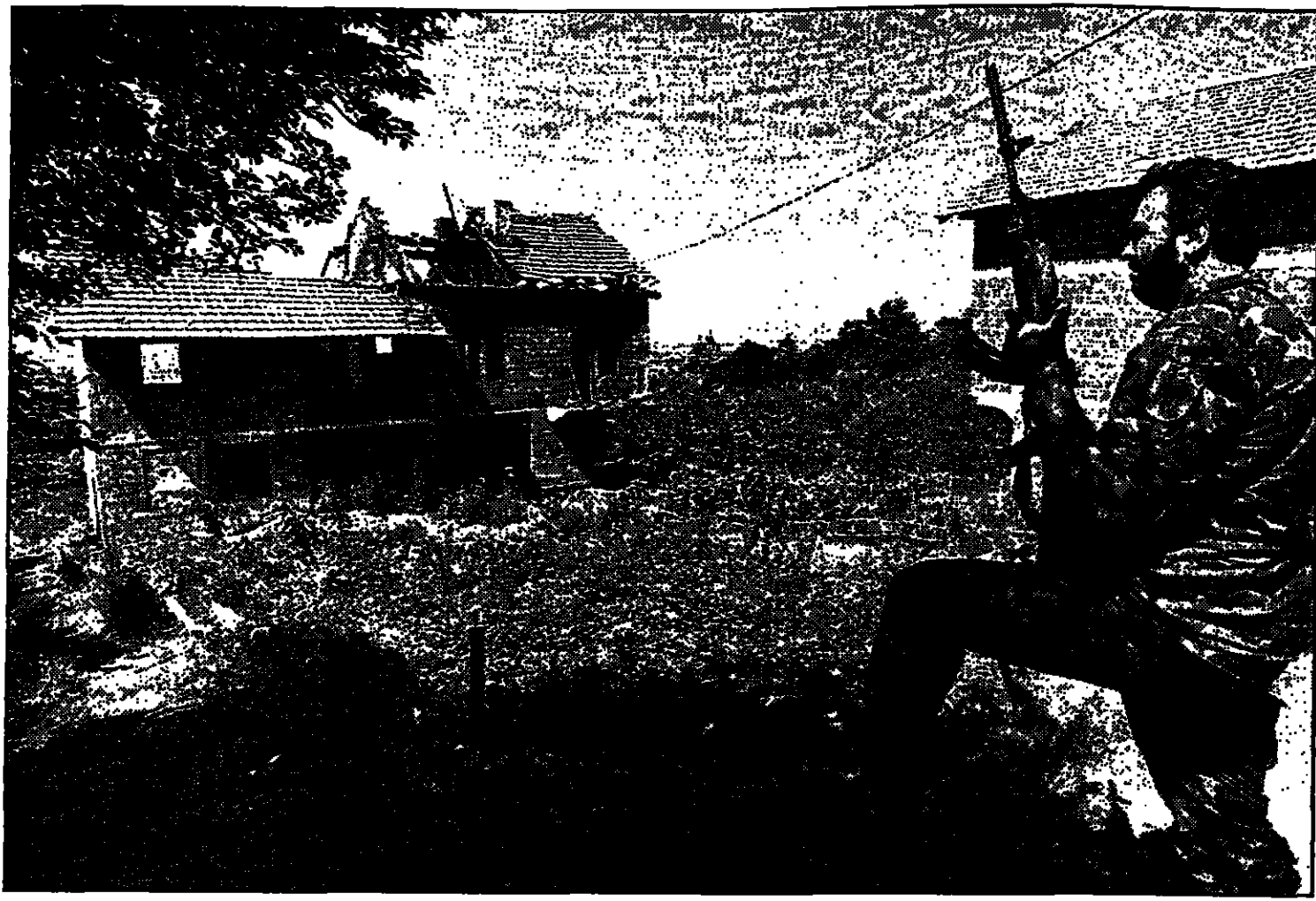
The guerrilla offensive on the central Kosovo town of Orahovac, about 50 km. southwest of Pristina, capital of Serbia's Kosovo province, seemed aimed at expanding the 30 to 40 percent of the province now held by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The Serb shelling in the region of Padesh village on the Albanian border was an attempt to further disrupt the guerrillas' gun-smuggling network.

Padesh served as the main route for about 13,000 Kosovo refugees that crossed the border into Albania in June, escaping a Serb attack on their villages. It is also believed to be used by the KLA to smuggle guns and ammunition from northern Albania into Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs 9-to-1 and many are demanding independence from Serbia.

The Padesh shelling, which started late Friday, ended by afternoon. Albanian border guards reported seeing dead and wounded but gave no casualty count, said Artan Bizhga of the Albanian interior ministry, which controls the border police.

He said 19 wounded KLA members crossed into Albania to escape the barrage. And Albania's state TV said that 80 others, apparently civilians, had stayed in a nearby border minefield in their headlong rush to flee the violence. They were later



A Kosovo Liberation Army fighter stands in front of a destroyed house in a village near Prizren, 80km. south west of Pristina, on Friday. (AP)

evacuated by Albanian border troops, said state TV.

The wounded guerrillas were helicoptered to Tirana, Albania's capital, for medical treatment. Some wore military uniforms with KLA insignia. Reporters in Tirana said most were blood splattered, but in most cases their wounds appeared relatively minor.

Albania's deputy interior minister, Ilir Cano, said that during the most intense shelling, two Serb mortar rounds landed inside Albanian territory.

"These dangerous incidents (could) have very dangerous consequences," said Cano, hinting at the danger of a possible Albanian mili-

tary response to such violations of its territorial sovereignty.

He said a protest had been lodged — and a meeting demanded — with authorities of Yugoslavia, which is dominated by Serbia.

None of the reports could be verified independently, but both Serb and Kosovo Albanian sources spoke of intense fighting at Orahovac, with the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Information Center calling the guerrilla assault there the largest since smoldering ethnic hostilities flared into open warfare in February.

The center said the KLA offensive wrested at least one kilometer of hilly terrain from Serb control and the guerrillas may have entered

Orahovac, a town of 20,000.

The pro-government Serb Media Center described the fighting as a "dramatic" KLA assault "from several directions" that sent civilians streaming from the area.

It said more than 40 Serb civilians had been kidnapped by ethnic Albanian fighters. Telephone lines to Orahovac went dead yesterday morning.

In Pristina, British Embassy officials said a British aid worker earlier feared missing was located in the southwestern town of Djakovica, where she had been detained by the Yugoslav military.

British officials said Sally Becker, known as the Angel of Mostar for

her humanitarian efforts in that Bosnian city during the war, was accused of illegally crossing the Albanian-Yugoslav border while attempting to assist Kosovo refugees. She heads a small humanitarian organization called Operation Angel.

It appeared that authorities were building a case against her. Yugoslavia's state-run Tanjug news agency said she was in contact with "terrorists" in Albania and in possession of a video tape "undoubtedly... meant to present a distorted situation of Kosovo."

French ex-ministers charged in AIDS scandal

PARIS (Reuters) — A former French prime minister and two former ministers were sent to trial on Friday charged with manslaughter in connection with a 1980s distribution of AIDS-tainted blood which killed hundreds of haemophiliacs.

The three charged are former Socialist prime minister and current National Assembly speaker Laurent Fabius, and former health and social affairs ministers Edouard Herve and Georgina Dufoix, a court statement said.

They were in office in 1985 when France's worst public health scandal took place — some 1,250 haemophiliacs were infected by blood products supplied by the state. More than 400 have since

died.

Fabius said that he was ready to go on trial and that he was confident that truth will prevail.

"Subject to future appeals, it is before the court of justice that I will establish that I acted in all honesty, as I have always said, as I should have and as quickly as possible," he said in a statement.

"At this time I think with compassion for the victims of this drama and their families. I understand and respect their pain. Deep down, I remain convinced that when the trial ends, truth and justice will win out," he said.

Victims' groups gave Friday's ruling a mixed reaction, welcoming the decision to send the case to trial but criticizing the fact that the

charge was reduced to manslaughter from complicity in poisoning.

Fabius, 51, France's youngest prime minister when in office from 1984-1986, was seen as a potential presidential contender until the blood scandal overshadowed his career.

Four senior public health officials were convicted of fraud in 1992 and given prison sentences of up to four years for knowingly allowing contaminated blood stocks to be given to haemophiliacs.

Fabius and his ministers, who have been under investigation since 1994, have said they were not aware of the stocks.

Japan health minister enters PM race

TOKYO (Reuters) — Outspoken Health and Welfare Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday launched his bid to become Japan's next prime minister, saying that he wants to focus on fiscal stimulus and cutting taxes to get the economy moving.

In a paper presented at a news conference to unveil his solution to Japan's economic woes, Koizumi says that he would revise the fiscal reform law that requires Japan to reduce over time its large budget deficits.

"I will give priority to fiscal spending until the economic crisis is overcome. Following that I will implement long-term fiscal

reform," his policy paper says.

Koizumi joins senior LDP politicians Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi and conservative veteran Seiroku Kajiyama in the race for the premiership. The other two candidates unveiled their economic platforms on Friday.

Koizumi, 56, is the youngest of the three candidates vying for the job soon to be vacated by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, following the party's poor showing in last Sunday's vote for seats in the less-powerful Upper House of parliament.

Koizumi's policy paper says that he wants to lower Japan's income tax rates, currently among the high-

est among major G7 countries, but he provided no exact figures.

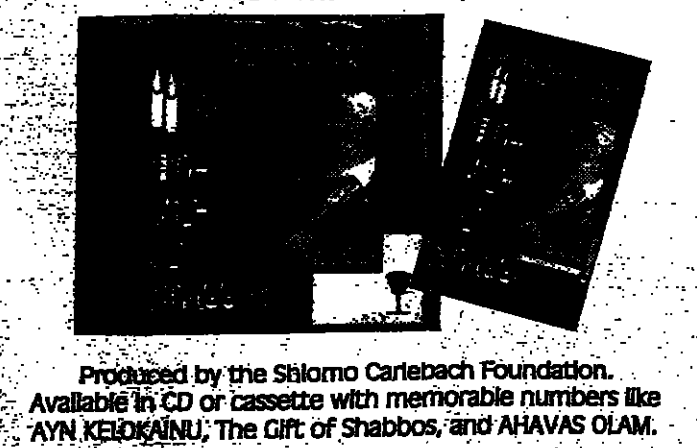
He also said that the government bureaucracy should be reformed, reflecting a long-standing view that the size of Japan's government should be reduced.

Obuchi, 61, considered the most conventional of the candidates, told a news conference on Friday that he would make his "utmost efforts" to create a strong Japanese economy and rebuild the region.

Conservative Kajiyama — a 72-year-old veteran who has gained favour with financial markets for his aggressive economic policies — unveiled a drastic plan to cleaning up the banking system.

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70 dead, hundreds missing as tidal wave strikes Papua New Guinea

By JOHN MAIR

CANBERRA (Reuters) - A massive tidal wave powered by an earthquake swept away villages in Papua New Guinea with a confirmed death toll of at least 70 and disaster officials said yesterday hundreds of children and adults were feared dead.

One village on a spit of land was wiped away leaving only "clean sand," according to a local mission priest, and a resident said the wave swept another village away like a broom.

Colin Travert, of the PNG National Disaster Center, told CNN at least 70 people were confirmed dead after 10 villages were completely destroyed.

Papua New Guinea lies across the Torres Strait from Queensland, Australia.

Father Austen, a Catholic priest in Aitape who runs the mission

health services in the area, said between 300 and 500 people were missing, many of them children.

"We are expecting 300 dead," he said by telephone from Aitape.

Another disaster relief official said the toll could be much higher.

Dickson Dalle told Australian Broadcasting Corp television, "We'd be looking at close to 1,000 people."

Austen said three huge waves had swept in shortly after 7 p.m. (0900 GMT), the largest estimated at between seven and 10 meters high.

The waves struck a stretch of beach about 30 kilometers long, from Aitape west to Sissano village in West Sepik province, Austen said.

The waves were powered by an earthquake measuring seven on the Richter scale centered on the Pacific Ocean seabed close to Aitape, Australian seismologists

said.

Arop, with 1,800 people and located on a spit of land Austen estimated to be about 100 meters wide and one kilometer long, was wiped out.

"There is nothing left of that place except clean sand," Austen said. "Washed into the Sissano lagoon there was debris, tanks, iron. It's a very shallow lagoon, you can see bits of houses, bits of people, also bodies floating around in it."

The houses in the low-lying villages were mainly made of bush materials like palm fronds. Some did have iron roofs, and the structures were quite sturdy, Austen said.

"The earthquake didn't bother them, it just sort of shook a bit and [the houses] stayed there, and when the wave hit, that was the end of it," he said.

Another Catholic priest,

Augustine Kulmana, said that three villages housing 7,500 people and a Catholic mission had all been destroyed.

"The tidal wave hit without any warning and wiped out three villages and a mission station," he said, adding the wave had left floods 10 meters deep in places.

Rob Parer, a businessman who lives just outside Aitape, told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio that a lot of people had lived along the beach where the waves struck.

"All the houses of theirs along the beach, I'd say 80 or 90 percent, have been wiped out by the sound of it," Parer said. "The people have never heard of anything like it. You know they thought it was the end of the world."

One resident told ABC the wave had swept his village away like a broom. Rescue worker Dalle said villagers had described the sound of the wave as like a jet fighter

landing.

Austen said his mission had shut down its health services just three hours before the waves struck after a dispute over funding with the provincial health authority.

"So yesterday at 4 p.m. we closed, and of course, 7:30 p.m. disaster struck, so we've opened up the mission hospital here," he said.

Most of the injuries being treated were cuts and broken bones from people being thrown around, he said. Resources were short and the key priorities were shelter, food and water.

The waves washed away the local airstrip and the access road, so rescuers were dependent on helicopters and boats, Austen said.

He said once dusk fell the helicopters would be grounded and the full extent of the wave's impact would not be known for some time.

11 die trying to rescue Austrian miner

By ROLF SODERLUND

LASSING, Austria (Reuters) - Rescue workers yesterday abandoned hope for 11 men trapped deep underground after an Austrian mine caved in. One official said the bodies might never be recovered.

A crater some 100 meters across opened up on Friday night outside Lassing, 200 km south-west of Vienna, sending tons of mud and water crashing into the tunnels and shafts below.

Officials revised the presumed death toll to 11 from first reports of 12, after 10 members of a rescue team which had entered the mine in search of a 24-year-old miner trapped by an earlier landslide on Friday were believed to have been crushed or drowned.

Rescue workers said there was still a faint hope that 24-year-old Georg Hainzl, who had been caught around 60 meters below the surface in the magnesium silicate mine, might have survived in an air pocket.

But there was virtually no hope that his would-be rescuers, some of whom had been working at depths of 130 meters, would be found alive.

"We have no hope for the trapped men," fire chief Horst Freiburger told Austrian radio.

Alfred Maier, head of mining safety at the Federal Economics Ministry, said rescuers were trying to bring stability to the crater by pumping out water or channeling away a local stream.

"Our last hope is to try to stabilize the crater, so that we can think of what to do next," he told a news conference in Lassing.

Late yesterday afternoon, rescue workers were preparing to use heavy drilling equipment brought in from Germany.

Several houses in this Alpine village fell into the crater, but no injuries were reported. Around 200 local people were evacuated and police kept onlookers well away from the crater, which continued to widen.

Asked if a further landslide was possible, Maier said: "Now things are looking relatively stable, but we cannot rule out anything." The missing members of the rescue team had been working in various tunnels and shafts and some of them were in a lift when the landslide occurred.

Professor Rudolf Wuestrich of the Federal Mining Authority said there was a possibility that the bodies would never be recovered.

"I tell you honestly - it would be irresponsible, if you know that the mine is full of mud, to risk the lives of other people by salvaging bodies from a depth of 130 meters. You can remove the mud but it flows back again," he told Reuters.

Rescue workers said the ground underneath Lassing was a maze of tunnels and shafts which had somehow become unstable.

"There has been rain recently, but nothing out of the ordinary," said fireman Thomas Ketterer.

Mine manager Walter Engelhardt said the accident had been completely unexpected. The second slide had come as a surprise, because the shaft was believed to be safe for the rescue team to enter.

Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima, who flew to the scene by helicopter, said: "I am deeply shocked and shaken by the extent of the accident. We must exhaust every possibility for a rescue while there is still the slightest hope."

Company says Internet virgins was a 'hoax'

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - A company that was to provide the computer equipment to show two 18-year-olds losing their virginity on the Internet said on Friday the event was a hoax designed to make a fortune and fool millions of people.

Seattle-based Internet Entertainment Group (IEG), which had signed a contract to supply the computer hardware, told Reuters the organizers planned to charge Internet users \$5 each and then not deliver on their promise that the couple would have sex "for the first time."

IEG's President Seth Warshavsky said the couple was going to have AIDS tests and pick out condoms leading up to their August 4 event and charge viewers \$5 for "age-verification" purposes. Then on the actual day, the couple would decide they were not ready for sex, he said.

Mark Vega, the lawyer and spokesman for the couple identified as "Mike and Diane," did not return repeated phone calls, but in a letter posted on IEG's Web site he said the charges were false and defamatory.

Warshavsky said he was informed by Ken Tipton, the organizer of the event, in a phone call on Friday that it was aimed at fooling more people than Orson Welles's *War of the Worlds* 60 years ago. That realistic radio drama duped millions of Americans into thinking that Martians had invaded New Jersey.

Warshavsky said that Tipton, a former video store owner who claims he was persecuted by the religious right, had been using the pseudonym Oscar Wells up until the day he signed the contract with IEG. Wells was named on the www.ourfirsttime.com Web site as its designer.

Tipton was not available for comment.

Mandela marries sweetheart on 80th birthday

By BRENDAN BOYLE

PRETORIA (Reuters) - South African President Nelson Mandela celebrated his 80th birthday yesterday by marrying his Mozambican sweetheart Graca Machel.

The private ceremony at Mandela's home in Houghton, a plush Johannesburg suburb, was attended by family members and political colleagues. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki announced in Pretoria.

The wedding had been planned two months ago, but the couple had not wanted news to leak out until the union had been formalized, Mbeki said.

"I have a very short statement to make and a very happy one. President Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel got married this afternoon," Mbeki told reporters at his official residence in Pretoria.

It is Mandela's third marriage and Machel's second. The 52-year-old Machel is the widow of former Mozambican president Samora Machel.

None of Mandela's surviving four children, two from his first marriage to Evelyn Mase and two from his second marriage to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, attended the ceremony, Mbeki said.

Mandela's younger sister and three brothers of Machel attended the ceremony.

The president wore one of his familiar floral shirts and Machel wore a long white dress with lace, Mbeki said.

"They exchanged rings. When asked to kiss they kissed and the president said it was the first time he had kissed her," Mbeki said.

Mandela had the ring in his own pocket, but Mbeki said he and his wife signed as witnesses to the marriage. He added that Machel would continue to use her own name.

A large group of people gathered outside Mandela's house, singing wedding songs as news spread that Madiba, the clan name by which Mandela is affectionately known, had tied the knot.



South African President Nelson Mandela holds hands with his new bride, Graca Machel at their wedding yesterday.

"I want him to have somebody to look after him, so it's okay if he marries Graca. I am happy for him," one woman said.

Flower delivery vans and senior ANC officials were also seen arriving at Mandela's house.

Mandela earlier celebrated his 80th birthday quietly with family. Machel and friends yesterday in the sandstone house first used by the apartheid rulers who jailed him for 27 years.

Though he refused any formal celebrations, Mandela received a num-

ber of friends bringing gifts and food to Mahlabanlolo, the official presidential residence overlooking Pretoria.

Amina Cachalia, who fought apartheid with Mandela before he was jailed in 1962, led a delegation of Indian women taking him a giant curry.

Mahlabanlolo, which in the Tsonga language means the place where the elephant bathes, was the official residence of South Africa's apartheid presidents.

Mandela, who spent 27 years in

prison for fighting apartheid, gave it the name after he slept there on May 10, 1994, following his inauguration as the country's first black president.

The Afrikaans language *Beeld* newspaper, which once endorsed apartheid and Mandela's long imprisonment, congratulated him in an editorial yesterday, saying: "In a racially divided country like South Africa, his greatest single achievement is probably that he is so widely accepted - that there are so few South Africans who still look at his skin color."

Californians raise stink for 'skunk safe' yogurt

By ANDREW QUINN

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Your tuna sandwich may not be hurting the dolphins, but is your yogurt skunk safe?

In a new campaign to bring political correctness to the pantry, a California animal rights group has declared that Yoplait brand yogurt containers are leading to the agonizing deaths of skunks across the country.

"Thousands of skunks and other wildlife are dying in yogurt containers," Camilla Fox of the Sacramento, California-based Animal Protection Institute said on Friday. "They jam their heads in looking for yogurt and then get trapped."

The stink over skunk-safe yogurt follows earlier campaigns for dolphin-safe tuna, in which animal rights activists targeted tuna fishing nets they said were responsible for the needless deaths of dolphins.

Fox said Yoplait, with its distinctive tapered container, is equally deadly for skunks.

"They are attracted to the smell of the yogurt, and wedge their heads into the container," she said. "When they try to pull out, the rim that curves in acts as a locking mechanism against the animal's fur. Because they have short legs, they are unable to push against the container to extricate themselves."

Fox said the skunks, locked in a Yoplait helmet they cannot remove, are blinded and frequently die of suffocation.

"They bump around, they get run over by cars, and they obviously are easy prey," Fox said. "It is a fairly brutal death. One they

don't deserve."

Officials at General Mills, the maker of Yoplait, say they have been taking the problem seriously - enough to mount rigorous design tests involving skunk heads made of foam into different prototype containers.

Larry Sawyer, General Mills' director of government relations, was not available to comment on Friday. But he told the *San Jose Mercury News* the company is trying to help.

"It is a problem," he said. "We're working on a solution."

Over the next several weeks, a new, "skunk friendly" Yoplait container featuring a warning to consumers and a special ridge at the bottom to help skunks extricate themselves will hit supermarket shelves. But the familiar tapered design will stay because it makes the brand recognizable, Sawyer said.

Fox and other skunk advocates say this is not enough, and are encouraging consumers to write to General Mills president Steve Sanger to demand a total container revamp.

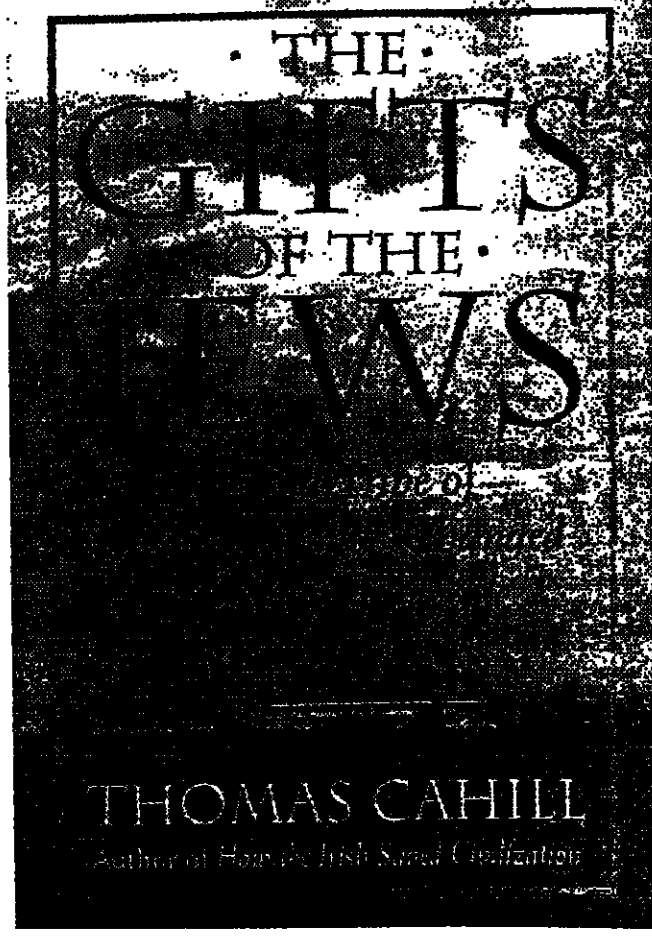
"We are trying to negotiate with them," Fox said. "We want to talk more before we call for a boycott."

Donna Backus, a Massachusetts wildlife rehabilitator who was one of the first to identify the Yoplait threat to skunks, says General Mills officials simply do not understand how dangerous the containers can be.

"I'd like to put a huge Yoplait container on the CEO of General Mills and set him out loose on the streets of New York," Backus told the *Mercury News*.

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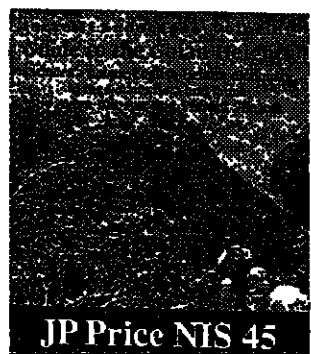
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The sadness of Dana Berger

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

When Dana Berger left the band Balagan and embarked on a solo career a few years ago, she headed a wave of similar female singer-songwriters.

PASHUT LEHIYOT
Dana Berger
(NMC)

have followed in Berger's wake, each bearing a solo guitar and a plaintive voice. Berger meanwhile gained minor prominence for her political activism while slowly working on her follow-up record.

While Berger has not entirely given up her rock chick persona, her impressive sophomore effort *Simply Being* (Pashut Lehiyot) shows a much wider musical range along with maturing lyrical talent. This comes out in a thematic cohesion between the album's songs.

More than three years have passed since Berger's last album. To judge by the new record, the time has been a bit rough on her. Much of *Simply Being* deals with issues of relationships gone sour, loneliness, and harsh self-assessment.

Sadness is a pervasive theme on tracks such as "Far From Reality," where she declares of her life, "If this is the reality/then I prefer to dream." This sadness occasionally gives way to darker thoughts. On the track "Passing Warmth," she thinks about her latest love affair through the prism of the previous one; having been hurt before, she has decided

that relationships are transitory things at best.

Alongside sadness and isolation, Berger also takes on a second voice, telling the heroine (herself?) of the track "Wake Up in the Morning" to get a hold of herself and see that things may not be as bad as they seem.

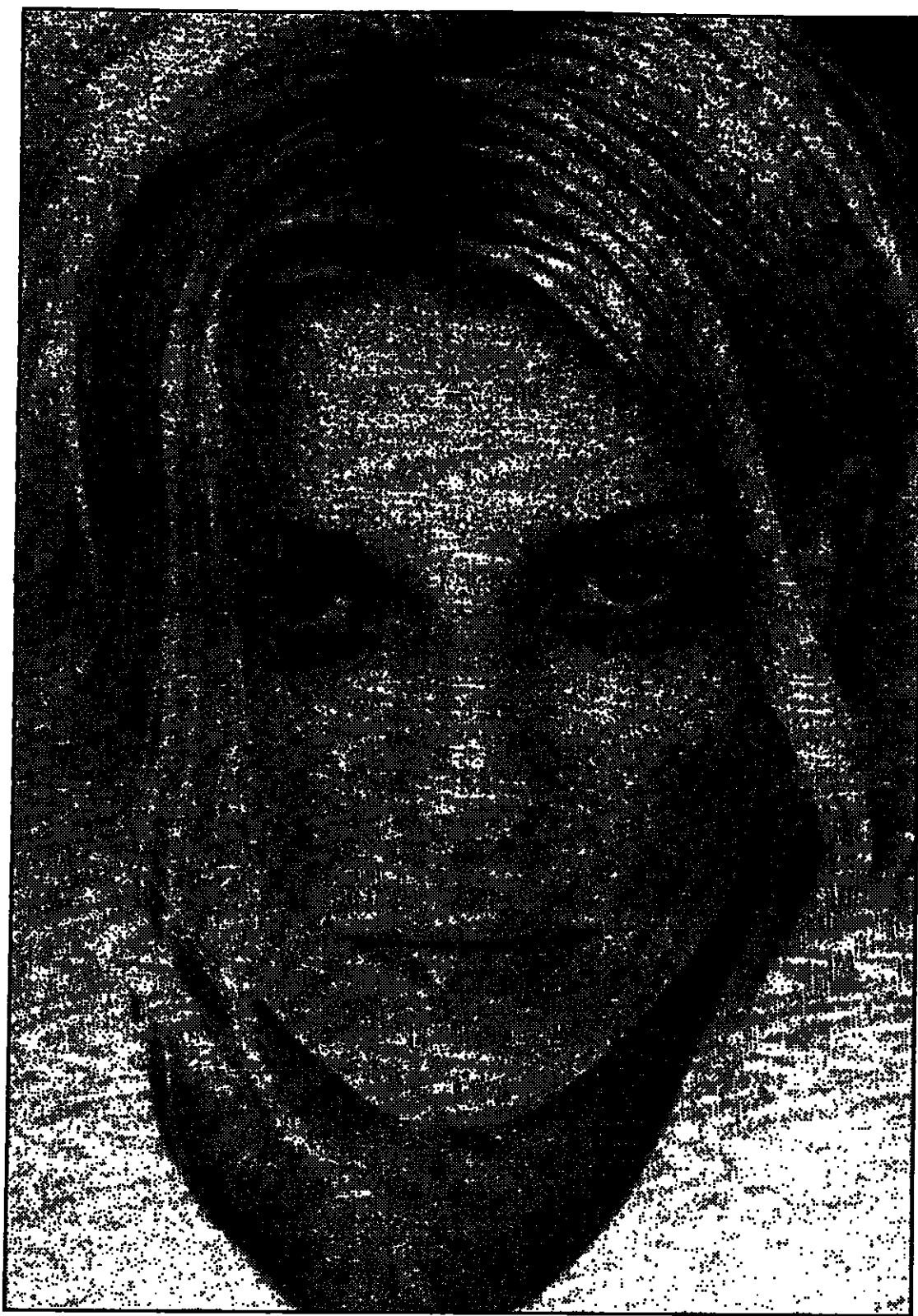
With the final, title cut, she manages to tie the songs into a cycle of sorts. Having gone through the attendant stages of sadness and loneliness, Berger finally comes to terms with "simply being."

Musically, the songs are still built on vocals and electric guitar. However, with help from producer Yuval Shafir, *Simply Being* shows evidence of development in a number of different directions. The songs point to an increasing fascination with dance music and influences ranging from Bjork to recent Tori Amos. A number of the songs utilize an electronic beat or synthesized instruments.

"Thoughts of Winter," the album's best track, is a full-blown dance single which appears in two versions on the album (both as a regular track as well as an extended club mix). The song, which is reminiscent of Madonna's recent "Ray of Light," mixes frantic break beats with Middle Eastern guitar motifs. At the other end of the musical scale, a track like "When You Will Come" utilizes only electric piano and bass in a quiet, contemporary-jazz arrangement.

One of the problems with many young Israeli singers is a tendency to de-emphasize the importance of good vocals. Like many of her contemporaries, Berger suffers from a strained singing voice, a fact that hampers some of the songs on the album. She does, however, show some signs of improvement on this front, managing to pull off a simple, pretty song like "Giving up Again" accompanied only by piano.

Simply Being is a strong second album. By taking her time with it, Berger has shown a willingness to let herself develop at her own pace. This, along with her eagerness to adopt new musical forms, may very well make her a force to be reckoned with in the future.



Singer Dana Berger displays a maturing lyrical talent on her new disc.

Kfar Blum salutes Gershwin

By MICHAEL AJENSTADT

There's plenty to do on a summer's day at Kfar Blum: swim in the pool, enjoy the Dan river, or savor the beauty of the Upper Galilee. You can eat fish in the legendary restaurant Dag Al Hadan (Fish on the Dan), or Lebanese delights in nearby Memla. But while all this is available during the day, come evening music takes over at the site of Israel's premier chamber music festival.

Kfar Blum is the place where the idea of local summer music festivals was born. Now in its 14th season, the Kfar Blum Festival - officially titled Kof Israel Upper Galilee Music Days - features a series of 15 concerts over 10 days (July 23-August 1) performed by the leading local musicians.

This year's festival, for which tickets are always hard to get, is the regular celebration of music by local and visiting composers like Shostakovich, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Chopin, Beethoven, and others, together with more esoteric names such as Vaughan Williams, Jolivet, Delany, Respighi and even Piazzolla.

The musicians participating in the concerts and in the traditional, open-to-the-public, morning rehearsals are the usual mix of Israeli living here and several living abroad. Violists Ron Efrat and Zvi Carmeli, violinists David Barlov and Ben Zion Shafir, pianist Sally Finkels and clarinetist Guy Yehuda return home for the summer to play alongside Israelis such as Irina Fiedland, Revital Hachamoff, Itzik Kastoriano, Emanuel Krasovskiy, Alexander Rosenblatt and Orit Orbach. There will also be a few musicians from

abroad, including the winners of the last two Artur Schnabel International Piano Master Competitions, Alexander Korsantia and Igor Chetnev.

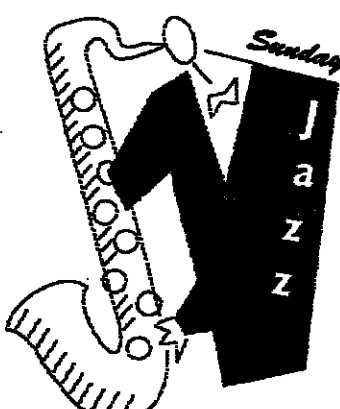
It is not just the musicians who make Kfar Blum the special occasion it is, but the programs that do the trick. This year the opening evening held at Golan Wineries will feature a tribute to George Gershwin, and there will also be a very special concert by the New Vocal Ensemble and a marimba band titled Africa Fun, devoted to music ranging from Bach to African rhythms.

As usual, Israeli composers - whose concerts are broadcast on the Voice of Music - will be featured in the festival. Besides Andre Hajdu, Jan Radzinski and Israel Sharon, three composers - Ami Ma'ayan, Michael Wolpe and Menahem Wiesenberg - will give master classes in which each composer will present his own works as well as compositions by leading 20th-century composers.

Summer in Kfar Blum is always great fun. After the first decade in which the festival was run by its founder, Idi Zvi, and became the hottest place to be, it has been searching for its true identity regarding both performers and programs.

Now under the artistic directorship of Avi Hana, it seems the festival has found a framework in which the basis of the repertoire is chamber music encompassing wide styles and genres. And even if the actual performances have been occasionally lacking in intensity and overall musicianship in past years, the festive atmosphere makes this an exciting event and a nice summer gathering place for music lovers.

The other 13 divas



By David Isaacson

While Dana International has been enjoying the worldwide success of her song "Diva," another Diva has

DIVA
Various Artists
(NMC)

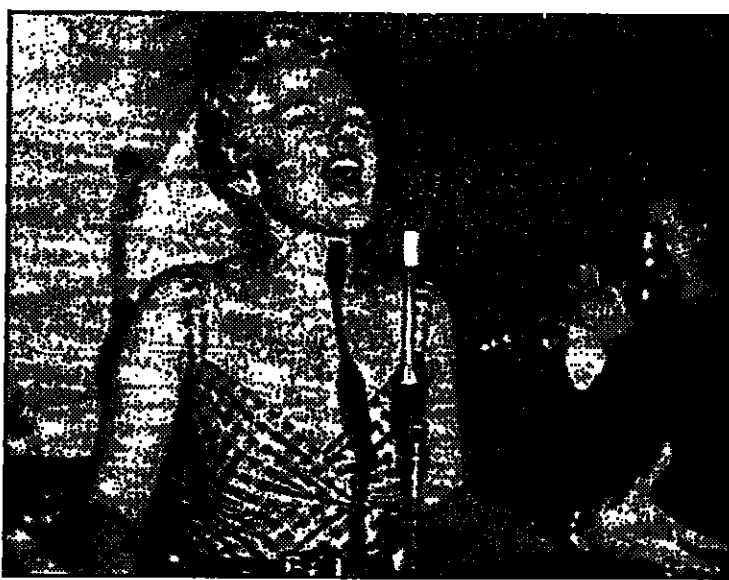
been attracting those interested in vintage female pop rather than Eurovision kitsch. Or, to be precise, another 13 divas.

The 13 singers on *Diva* range from Sarah Vaughan - arguably the finest singer in jazz history - to big-band graduates Dinah Shore and Rosemary Clooney, and Fifties pop stars Alma Cogan and Eve Boswell.

You might think that this eclectic mix would work against such a compilation: The brassy vocal style of Welsh songstress Shirley Bassey on "Big Spender" has very little in common with the feline slinkiness of Eartha Kitt's "Too Close For Comfort." And there's not much thematic unity when the instant gratification of Peggy Lee's finger-clicking good "Fever" is followed by Nina Simone's long, brooding "Wild is the Wind." Or when Dinah Shore's ultra-romantic take on Gus Kahn's Fifties classic "It Had To Be You" is followed by Rosemary Clooney's snappy rendition of Paul Simon's light and amusing swinger "50 Ways To Leave Your Lover."

But who needs uniformity? Like Hed Arzi's locally compiled *Jazz Is: Standards*, the import *Diva* is an excellent introduction to - or reminder of - a whole world of fine music. (Both discs include a cover version of "Fly Me To The Moon," and in both cases it's impossible to miss the echo of Ol' Blue Eyes himself.) It's the very diversity of the singers that affords the listener immediate comparisons.

Diva includes a number of must-



Peggy Lee's 1958 'Fever' is finger-clicking good.

have classics such as The Divine Sarah's "Stormy Weather" and Julie London's trademark "Cry Me A River." Less obviously, Dinah Washington brings swing, verve and attitude to a kicking "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby," and Dinah Shore's slow, emotional cover of the Rodgers-Hart standard "My Funny Valentine,"

accompanied by piano only, is as moving as it gets.

With a couple of exceptions - "I Get Along Without You Very Well" aptly describes my feelings about the Lena Horne song of that name - this is a remarkably successful compilation. No wonder it's selling so well; if not as well as the other *Diva*.

Michael Crawford unmasked

By DAVID RICHARDS

Some theatrical associations are forever. Yul Brynner, to his dying day, was the King of Siam. Carol Channing will always be Dolly Levi. And Michael Crawford - cue the organ - is the Phantom of the Opera.

Even without the cape, the half mask and the wide-brimmed hat slung low on his brow. Even in a tuxedo, with a navy-blue shirt opened at the neck, his garb for *An Evening With Michael Crawford in Concert*. Even when he's singing Irish ballads or inspirational hymns or songs by Stephen Sondheim.

"I went out on that stage as the Phantom every night for 1,300 performances and I loved it," says the 56-year-old actor. "Even now, when I sing a number from the show, it's as if I'm doing it for the very first time. There's no complacency or boredom. If you were to mention somebody else who played the part, I'd be jealous."

Crawford knows better than to question the role that won him a Tony and made him an international star. Of the dozens of performers who've played the Phantom all over the world, Crawford is the one everyone recognizes. And that, he says, is "what every actor wants, surely."

But there can be a downside: The role that makes you can be the role that imprisons you. During his concert, he tells the audience how seeing a production of *West Side Story* in his youth awoke him to the world of musicals. "Right away I knew that I wanted to be... a Jet," he confesses. That gets a big laugh. He pauses, then adds, "And I ended up being a Phantom."

Now he's on his own - if you can say that of a performer who is supported by a 40-piece orchestra, a 24-member choir and a state-of-the-art sound system that transports his slightest whisper.

It is the morning after the first of Crawford's two performances at Radio City Music Hall, midway through a three-month, 30-city tour that will take him all over the US. In the fall, he plans to go to Australia and eventually back to London, where he originated the theater's most famous masked man in 1986.

His face puffy with sleep, he sips mint tea in his hotel suite, hushes his voice. In direct contrast to his onstage presence - full of melodramatic passion - his conversation rarely rises above a hush. "What I do when I sing, really, is go off into a scene," he explains. "I have to find a scenario within every song."

"Getsemane" (from *Jesus Christ Superstar*), where I'm pleading with God, is a whole story and a heck of a journey. Or the last song I sing, "Papa, Can You Hear Me?" (from the movie *Yentl*). I've moved it away from the Jewish thing and given it a touch of Irish. But it's all about the love you have for a parent, your father or mother, someone who is in your prayers at night and to whom you say, 'I hope I'm doing the right thing with my life.'

"Michael's not Luciano Pavarotti," says composer Paul Schwartz, who conducted the *Phantom* pit orchestra for more than five years. "He has a small voice, but he's worked very hard to get control over it and he knows exactly what he's doing with it. You hand a song to someone like Judy Garland, she sings it. You hand a song to Michael and he finds what in the song he can act."

PREDICTABLY, the original cast album for *Phantom* has

been a huge seller - 12 million and counting - but of the half-dozen albums he's recorded on his own, he's hit pay dirt with *Michael Crawford Performs Andrew Lloyd Webber and A Touch of Music in the Night*. In his latest album, *On Eagle's Wings*, he forgoes show music for such hymns and songs of inspiration as "Ave Maria," "Amazing Grace" and "I'll Walk With God."



Crawford played a hapless bumbler in the '70s sitcom 'Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em.'

For more than four months it has been among the top 10 albums on Billboard's Contemporary Christian chart. "I don't want to preach onstage or on that album," says Crawford, who hews a strictly nondenominational line. "But I grew up believing in God. I didn't have a father, but my mother and grandmother taught me the difference between right and wrong in the name of this man, whose picture was by my bed and about whom I'd hear wonderful parables and stories. So I learned to love and respect that man and know that he would always look after me. It's as simplistic as that."

He was born Michael Patrick Dumble-Smith in Salisbury, England, but never knew his father, a pilot in World War II who perished in action. From his grandmother, who helped raise him, he acquired his love of music. By 15, Crawford had acquired his stage name (taken off a biscuit box), left school and was touring as a singer in Benjamin Britten's *Let's Make an Opera*. He did 500 educational radio broadcasts for the BBC Home Service. In one, he claims, he played Henry VIII and two of his wives; in another, a dog and two of its pups getting spayed.

Fame struck with the Seventies BBC television series *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*, a monster hit. Crawford's character, a good-natured bumbler who can't help wreaking havoc wherever he goes.

He displayed a rather endearing innocence in such films as *The Knack* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and such plays as *Black Comedy* and *No Sex Please, We're British*. Even when Crawford moved on to musicals (*Billy, Barnum*), they mostly required him to be charming and breezy, although in *Barnum*, he also had to walk a tightrope.

Crawford's persona was so fixed that when he was first cast as the Phantom, the scooters came out in force. "It was a miracle that I was accepted in the role in London - more so than in New York," he recalls. "The images I had built up with the British public were all comic. You know, 'Our little Michael, he's so funny.' That sort of thing. When people heard I would be the Phantom, they automatically thought I was going to be swinging from the chandelier." Now, Broadway would dearly love to lure him back.

(The Washington Post)

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Japan needs treatment

Japan's government has been asleep on the job while the Asian crisis first burst onto the international scene, then deepened and spread outwards. Since Japan, with more than two-thirds of Asia's total GDP, is that continent's economic equivalent of the United States, analysts have mostly watched in amazement while this superpower slumbered on, promising reforms, doing little about it, and finally succumbing to its own deep recession.

It was hardly a surprise therefore that Japanese voters proved themselves awake enough to thrash Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in the recent election, forcing his resignation. It would be hard for even the most obtuse voter to ignore the worst recession since World War II. Nonetheless, the ordinary Japanese voter has for so long been pushed aside and neglected by an arrogant political establishment that the electorate's sudden noisy thump on the political table came as a shock to everybody, including the voters themselves. Even after Hashimoto's resignation, it seemed Japanese politics would soon still slip back to business as usual, but the entry yesterday of a third renegade candidate into the race to fill the prime minister's chair might indicate that some movement is available to shift the country out of its fatalistic inertia.

The usual quiet background deals that are the essence of Japanese political life seemed to ensure a smooth transfer of high office to the Liberal Democratic Party's Keizo Obuchi, the

foreign minister. But some younger politicians at last seem to be paying attention to the voters' protest rather than to the polite rituals of deference to one's elders and betters. At 59, Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi would not be a symbol of fresh-faced youth in most democracies, but in the Japanese system, he is just that. By challenging the consensus contenders - Obuchi and former cabinet secretary Seiroku Kajiyama - Koizumi at least has carried on the shake-up the voters started.

That said, his candidacy may shake up the rules of procedure, but it remains to be seen if there are new ideas in the air to shake up the country. Koizumi differs little from his rivals in lacking on immediate fixes to lift the economy out of its trench - his too are promises of the obvious, such as cleaning up the distorting banking system. He also said he would halve the bloated civil service in 10 years, including cutting the numbers of elected officials and reduce the size of both chambers of Parliament. It's still fairly conservative fixing for a nation in immediate crisis considering that it has been stagnation, consensus, and political dithering that have led Japan down the road to near-ruin. Japan faces not the new millennium, but a replay of the 1930s. Whether or not he becomes prime minister, the entry of the health minister to the race should remind everyone that Japan is in need of serious economic intensive care. It is a dying patient with a huge family of dependents.

Biting the nuclear bullet

The United States and India this week begin once again to tackle the nuclear stalemate between them following the multiple nuclear tests in the sub-continent in May. This is the third round of quiet talks, at deputy-secretary of state level, since the blasts and the aim is to extract some good from bad by encouraging India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Pakistan has said it will sign it if India does.

Details of the first two rounds of talks in June, in Washington and Frankfurt, have remained secret, as will the current round starting tomorrow. US envoy Strobe Talbott will later carry on his quiet diplomacy in Pakistan but the sanctions imposed by Washington over the nuclear blasts will remain in place. The scientist responsible for India's first nuclear test in 1974 yesterday added his voice in favor of India now signing the Test Ban Treaty. Raja Ramanna, now a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, said this should pose no problem if the treaty's operating terms are clearly defined by a conference of interested nations. A sensible first step to a universal ban on proliferation should be to get all nations to sign an agreement not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

Such a pledge is more urgent now that the knowledge and materials necessary for making at least rudimentary weapons spreading rapidly. This has reached a point where there are fears that it may not be long before some non-state terrorist group could acquire a weapon. It is unrealistic to expect India and Pakistan to abandon their nuclear capability and join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear states. Even the Test Ban Treaty will prove a tricky negotiating problem, and India has stated it will not sign it unconditionally, as the US demands.

Another weakness of the current treaty is that it has no timetable for dismantling all nuclear weapons - again raising suspicion in emerging nations that its main aim is to protect the interests of the big five. With the Cold War over, and the post-World War II world passing, there is a powerful case for starting the process of banning nuclear weapons afresh with everyone on board. The aim of such a process should be to get every state to pledge no first use, to halt all explosive testing, to fight proliferation and, most importantly, to begin a timed program of eliminating all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.



Rackman's 'aguna' challenge

DAVID WEINBERG

It's Rabbi Prof. Emanuel Rackman, whose controversial new Orthodox Beit Din of America has been unilaterally dissolving the marriages of agunot, courageous or impetuous? Perhaps both.

The ferocious controversy kindled by Bar-Ilan University Chancellor Emeritus Rabbi Rackman over the freeing of agunot - women halachically chained to recalcitrant husbands against their will - pits one of the most prominent, profound, and courageously outspoken Orthodox leaders of this generation against Orthodox rabbinical establishments around the world. The battle has implications for the integrity of the halachic system itself.

The American Beit Din led by Rabbi Rackman has gone further than any comparable Orthodox court, dissolving in recent months over 70 cruel marriages without the husband's agreement, or even testimony. Now listen to the vociferous criticism from the progressive Orthodox intellectual elite:

Rabbi Dr. Aharon Lichtenstein: "An irresponsible initiative, even a calamity. Rabbi Rackman is on very shaky halachic grounds."

Rabbi Dr. Nahum Rabinowitz: "Impetuous and rash; not well-prepared and argued; you can't be a one-man bull in the halachic china shop." Rabbi Dr. Aharon Rakefet: "Intellectually dishonest; giving a false sense to people that this is halachically acceptable."

Rabbi Prof. Daniel Sperber: "Highly dubious and hardly justifiable."

Rabbi Prof. Justice Menachem Elon: "You can't single-handedly resolve a problem of such enormous halachic import without the backing of significant halachic arbiters."

In response, Rackman takes a historical view. He points to innovations in aguna problem-solving introduced in the last century and this one by Rabbi Y.E. Spektor and Rabbi Moshe Feinstein - innovations which were contested by significant contemporaries, but today are accepted beyond reproach.

RACKMAN admits that one of his goals is to prod the rabbinical establishment out of its slumber on this painful issue, forcing other eminent rabbis to step in with solutions of their own.

"I am militant and impatient with regard to freeing agunot," writes Rackman in an upcoming article, "because usually there are solutions when there's a halachic will. Rabbis found a way to per-

In the final analysis, he may be 100 years ahead of his time

mit the taking and giving of interest; a way to save our *hametz* until after Passah; and a way to use a stroller on the Sabbath. Women in chains deserve no less."

Rackman insists that the Beit Din's technical solutions remain within the halachic envelope, and that there are previous precedents. "We did not invent the wheel," he avers.

The halachic logic is complicated: If endemic cruelty characterized the marriage, and if coercion by a Beit Din of the husband to divorce his wife is warranted; then the woman can assert she was deceived in entering the marriage, and the Talmudic presumption that "a woman prefaces any kind of marriage to none" is not applicable. The Rabbinate Court then can exercise its Talmudically sanctioned power to dissolve the matrimonial union retroactively.

The problem is that the four Talmudic precedents for use of annulment are very limited in scope, applied only when some sort of *ger* process exists. Rackman expands the range enormously. Nevertheless, he says, "I certainly feel that I can meet my maker on this."

Rackman quotes Rabbi Shmuel Eliezer Halevy Eideles, the leading 16th century Talmudic giant known as the *Maharsha*, who wrote that "one must do everything possible to free an aguna even to the point of uprooting an

element of the Torah" (Yevamot 121a). Rackman: "The neglect of agunot by the rabbinic establishment is alienating people from Judaism. I am fighting for the glory of Torah and the halachic system, and our solutions will do more for the future of halacha than the stringency of its mandates."

Critics concede that Rackman is sincere in his efforts, and is creating, as Elon put it, "useful noise" in forcing the issue to the top of the halachic agenda.

"I fully appreciate and respect the motives that impel Rackman. Women have suffered long and grievously, and the capacity of rabbis to deal with this problem hasn't been utilized to the fullest," admits Lichtenstein. Sperber: "Rackman is courageously spurring others to find more satisfactory solutions. Elon: 'Rackman isn't a populist. He's doing this out of a deep-rooted concern for halachic propriety, for *ahava* olam'."

Rabinowitz: "Unfortunately, he's right that not all rabbinate are dealing sufficiently with the aguna problem." Rakefet: "Maybe *min hashamayim ziku* - Heaven will direct Rackman's misstep towards a better result."

Rackman's greatest error is the failure to substantiate his Beit Din's actions in a learned *teshuva*, a formal halachic position paper, which could then be considered and debated by today's Jewish law authorities. To Rabbi Rackman I say: Pull back for a while and defend yourself! Do not revel in your solitude. You must attract heavyweight halachic arbiters to your side in order to have long-term impact.

In the final analysis, Rackman may be 100 years ahead of his time. His 70-year-long career in the Rabbinate has been marked by fearlessness, bravely standing out, usually ahead of the Orthodox mainstream. As Danish playwright Henry Gibson once quipped about Jacob the Patriarch, who "was left alone" (Genesis 32:25) - "he who stands alone is the strongest man in the world." We need more leaders like him.

Fools' paradise

DANIEL BLOCH

Recent public opinion polls show a constant decrease in the popularity of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Some of these polls, conducted early last week, before the Strashnov Affair was made public, showed him losing the elections against any serious candidate from Shalom to Barak, and even Ronni Milo.

I believe that this loss of popularity can be attributed more to the economic and social policy of his government than to the stalemate in the peace process.

The same might happen in the next elections unless there is some dramatic change in the internal security situation or in our relations with our neighbors. It is in the social and economic field that the government is making every possible mistake - and even some improbable ones. No government in recent memory has hurt its own electorate and power-base more than this one.

From the rising unemployment to the devastating decrease in economic growth, from the rising cost of health-care to the unsustainable mortgages, the right-wing government hurts the lower middle class, most ranks of wage-earners, development-area residents and young couples, the people who gave Netanyahu his narrow victory over Peres.

Here and there, a bone is thrown to the haredi population, as in the case of the mortgages, but they are nevertheless hurt by the rising cost of health insurance, as they have bigger families

The right-wing government hurts the people who gave Netanyahu his narrow victory

and cannot afford private medicine.

On top of all these failures comes Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's tax reform that will only help the rich, who are already the main beneficiaries of the current situation. Several hundred families - and less than a handful of foreign investors are the only ones that reap the harvest of the ill-advised privatization, when public property is sold for a pittance to so-called investors who finance most of their purchases with loans from government-controlled banks.

The real income from the sale of government-owned companies and properties goes to support the settlements and politically motivated coalition agreements, instead of using it for investments in infrastructure, both physical and human, from transportation and railways to technological education, research and development.

While the rich will benefit from the proposed tax reform, the majority of taxpayers will lose their exemptions and will pay more for health and other services.

STRANGE as it seems, Israel is the only country where the employer does not contribute toward the health-insurance programs of his employees. The insured will now pay triple; a health-tax, a monthly payment to the health-fund and supplemental insurance for services not provided by the basic health insurance law. Reagan's, Thatcher's and Milton Friedman's fools' paradise!

Whoever wants to win the next elections, which might come sooner than many expect, must fight a fierce parliamentary and public battle against the current economic, financial and social policies of this government.

The opposition should not waste its ammunition on stupid innuendo against Netanyahu, as Nissim Zivili did last week.

The hate policies of Arthur Finkelstein help in the short run but backfire in the longer run when the leader cannot deliver on his promises.

The opposition's main obligation is to manifest a clear alternative to the current policies. It must come with an alternative tax reform plan and show how to curb unemployment, resume economic growth and finance health and social insurance.

Rabin's slogan in the successful 1992 election campaign was to change the order of priorities - give less to the politically motivated settlements and corrupt coalition agreements and more to social and education needs.

At the time of his assassination, his government was on the way to implementing most of those obligations. Unfortunately, Peres, did not use these achievements to boost his campaign.

The candidate and the party that will find the way to present honest, caring and reliable economic and social policies will have a better chance at the polling booth in the coming elections.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POETRY CONTEST

Sir - Voices: The Israel English Poetry Association proudly contributes to our 50th anniversary celebrations by announcing our 9th international poetry contest.

Prizes: \$300; \$150; \$100 and \$50.

Cost per poem submitted, NIS 8; entries unlimited. Receipt acknowledged if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope or an international reply coupon. Deadline for submissions: September 30.

Winners will be notified by November followed by a public reading of the poetry and a weekend workshop. Winning poems will be published in *Voices*, our annual anthology. This booklet has gained international repute and is registered with the Washington Library of Congress.

Requirements: challenging and curious poetry not necessarily on Jewish or Israeli subjects. Poems should not be more than 40 lines

each and submitted in duplicate; one copy with the name and address of the entrant.

Judging: anonymously by Professor Richard Sherwin of Bar-Ilan University and author of several compilations of poetry. Submit to *Voices* Israel: P.O.B. 236, Kiryat Ata 28101 Israel.

MIKE SCHNEIDEMANN
President, *Voices* Israel
Kibbutz Yizre'el

US POLICY

Sir - United States Council-General in Jerusalem John Herbst attended Yasser Arafat's special meeting of the Palestinian Legislative Council meeting in Ramallah.

He did not respond at all when Arafat stated "Palestinians will use all means to defend the city. The battle for Jerusalem is a battle

of life and death for the Palestinian people. The patience of the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian people has run out. Let Netanyahu and his government know that Jerusalem is a red line, and there is not one person among us who would make concession on any grain of soil of Jerusalem."

What does the United States think of this speech? Why did Herbst not respond immediately and say that this is not US policy and that the Palestinians have gone too far in inciting violence and their unwillingness to negotiate?

TOBY WILLIG
Jerusalem.

ROAD FAILURE

Sir - Twenty-five people were killed on Israel's roads during the week of July 5.

To date, not one minister (police, transportation or the prime minister) has alluded to this tragedy. Neither has any Knesset member considered it to be important. The media too has been very

low key. Had that number of our citizens fallen at the hands of our enemies in one week there would have been an immediate public outcry.

This year, 324 people have already been killed on the roads and hundreds more seriously injured. This more than indicates

the failure of the National Road Safety Authority's policy, which was set up by an act of Knesset last August to "wage war on road carnage."

ZELDA HARRIS
Metuna Organization for Road Safety.
Netanya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 19, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that in the elections to the World Zionist Congress Palestinian Labor Zionists won a smashing victory with 27,974 votes, some 70 percent of the total, while Revisionists received only 4,703 votes. Labor was also reported to be winning the US Zionist list.

50 years ago: On July 19, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the village of Ein Kerem fell into Jewish hands without a struggle when a lone Arab defender fled through the narrowing cordon. It was quiet on most fronts after the Arabs accepted the UN Security Council's cease-fire order. In Jerusalem the International Red

Cross vacated the YMCA and Terra Sancta College "security areas."

25 years ago: On July 19, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that explosives were found in plastic bags in Haifa cinemas and near Tiberias beaches.

Alexander Zvielli



A pair of Derby figures of a Jewish peddler and his wife, from the the Shane collection, sold at Christie's record-breaking Judaica sale.

Judaica sale sets record

AT THE AUCTIONS

Judaica collectors the world over thronged Christie's East in New York last month for a landmark sale of Judaica from the Asher Lewis Shane Collection, at which every single lot was sold.

The sale achieved over \$4.5 million, more than double its rosiest estimate. Following the Shane lots, a miniature Haggada by Meshulam Zimmel of Poles sold for \$574,500, an auction record for an 18th-century manuscript.

An auction record for an Esther Scroll was also set when a 17th-century Dutch illustrated vellum scroll was knocked down for \$574,500. A second Dutch Esther scroll also topped \$50,000.

Welsh-born Shane, a lawyer who established a huge real estate firm, was long a member – and often president – of the Jewish Historical Society of England. There were over 200 Esther scrolls in his collection. One 17th-century Dutch Esther scroll with borders

engraved by Shalom Italia (1619-55) soared past its estimate of \$40,000-\$60,000 to reach \$167,500.

A silver travelling Torah scroll that once belonged to Sir Moses Montefiore, written on parchment and mounted on silver rollers with an embroidered fabric mantle and a gilt-stamped leather case which fits in turn into a tin trunk, is a curiosity we predicted would exceed its estimate of \$20,000-\$30,000. It was sold for \$189,500, an auction record for a Torah scroll.

Another special English lot was a pair of rare English parcel-gilt Torah finials from 1811, made by Peter and William Bateman. It more than tripled its estimate at \$96,000.

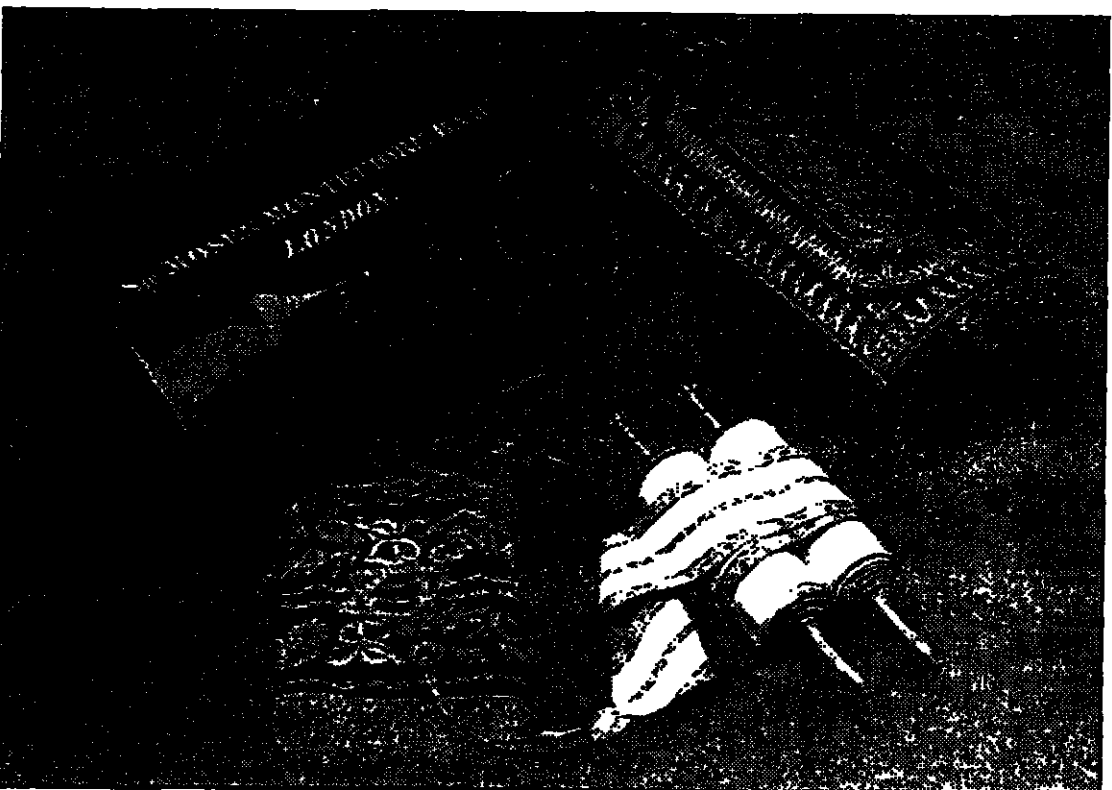
The Shane sale also comprises some 40 ketubot (marriage contracts) from England, Italy, Gibraltar, North Africa and India. A 12-volume Amsterdam first edition 1644-48 of the Babylonian Talmud headed a section of over 300 Hebrew imprints from all over Europe, the Ottoman Empire, India and the US. One of the highlights was the Great Rabbinic Bible with the Massora edited by Jacob ben Chayyim and published in four folio volumes by Daniel Bomberg, Venice, 1524-5. The myriad of volumes of Anglo-Judaica documents that formed the core of the Shane collection illustrate the earliest accounts of Jewish life in Britain and are primary historical sources.

Among the ceramics sold were two rare pairs of Jewish peddlers: a man selling bottles and a woman selling trinkets.

SOTHEBY'S LONDON sale on June 30 of Impressionist and



Marc Chagall: 'The Circus,' gouache on paper, 1969, sold by Sotheby's London for £175,000.



The travelling scroll of Sir Moses Montefiore, from the Shane collection, which set an auction record for a Torah scroll when it sold for \$189,500 at Christie's New York.

Modern Art, Part One, did well when only five of the 34 lots were bought in. Monet's 1900 oil of his garden pool and Japanese style bridge at Giverny tripled its estimate at \$18m. But Modigliani's melancholy portrait of Baranowski went for below

its estimate at £3.9m. A Degas pastel on paper of dancers was also a bit under at £2.4m, though still a very good price.

A late oil sketch of bathers by Cezanne also went for under its estimate at £850,000, as did a Chagall oil of a circus at £175,000.

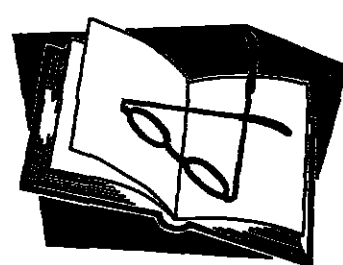
However an 1898 portrait of Ibsen in a cafe by Edvard Munch did well to triple its estimate at £1.5m. An indifferent work, its subject no doubt helped it do so well. A lovely head of a young girl by Kees van Dongen from 1908-10 topped its best estimate at £620,000.



Bernard Lefkowitz, author of 'Our Guys,' haunted by 'the most trusting person I've ever met in my life' (Jed Kirschbaum/Baltimore Sun)

Ugly thing in a pretty place

Books



By Laura Lippman

The first time Bernard Lefkowitz saw the woman he would come to call "Leslie Faber," he remembers standing in front of Glen Ridge High School in the spring of 1990, talking to a student. Not one of the boys accused of assaulting Leslie in the so-called Glen Ridge rape case, but someone outside that clique of popular jocks.

The boy elbowed Lefkowitz and mouthed: That's her.

Only he used her real name, the name that Lefkowitz would never use in print, although Leslie Faber's privacy was pretty much decimated the moment the New Jersey case became public.

Lefkowitz turned and saw an obviously flustered young woman, pacing nervously.

"I saw this stocky, very plain woman, looking completely bewildered," says Lefkowitz, 60, settling into a hotel bar to talk about *Our Guys: The Glen Ridge Rape and the Secret Life of the Perfect Suburb* (Vintage Books, \$15).

"She'd walk 10 feet in one direction, 10 feet in another direction, and she'd circle around. And finally – she just looked terrified – she walked over to the boy I was standing with and she said, 'John, could you walk me home?'"

"That was the first time I had ever heard her speak. There was something so plaintive in her voice and – it's an overused word – something childlike."

For Lefkowitz, who had received a fairly large advance to write a book about the Glen Ridge rape, it wasn't easy to watch Leslie walk away. After all, it might have been his only chance to talk to the victim.

But trying to take advantage of a young woman with the mind of an 8-year-old was just another way of exploiting her, he decided.

To trick her into talking to him, to take advantage of her trusting nature – well, that wasn't so different from the high school jocks who had lured her into a basement and raped her with a baseball bat and a broomstick, was it?

Eventually the family did grant him an interview after the trial was over, but in between Lefkowitz found that the story of his book could be a book in itself.

Here are just a few of the things that happened to Lefkowitz as he worked on *Our Guys*: He was dropped by his publisher. His agent died. His new publisher, University of California Press, printed so few books that the supply had already been exhausted when it received a rave on the cover of the *New York Times* Book Review.

But today, a year after the book first appeared, things are looking up. *Our Guys* was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the Edgar this spring.

Lefkowitz's paperback publisher, Vintage Books, which made a best seller out of Jonathan Harr's *A Civil Action*, is giving *Our Guys* the same big push.

But this is not, Lefkowitz says, a true-crime book or a study of legal strategy. It is his attempt to understand how an ugly thing happened in such a pretty place.

His book starts with a scene that another writer might have chosen to withhold, to build suspense.

"If behavior like bra-snapping and making fun of a woman's body is allowed, then what happens in the end is not so surprising"

—Bernard Lefkowitz

It is March 1, 1989, and Leslie Faber has been lured to the basement of the Scherzer home. Kevin and Kyle Scherzer were twins – handsome, popular athletes – as were most of the boys in the basement that day. Thirteen were there when Leslie arrived, but six left when Bryant Grober dropped his pants.

"Leslie [is] left alone with the inner circle of jocks," Lefkowitz writes. "Kyle and Kevin, Bryant Grober, Paul and Chris Archer, and two of their friends and teammates, Peter Quigley and Richard Corcoran ... Leslie hears the voice say, 'Let's play a joke on her.' A neighborhood boy, a boy she has known all her life, is walking toward the 'fridge, reaching for the broom with the bright red handle."

Lefkowitz, a former reporter, remembers exactly how he first heard about the Glen Ridge rape case when it broke in 1989. He was in New York when he saw the local news broadcast.

"The camera panned to this town and it was this absolutely picture-perfect place," he says. "I found out later it was the backdrop for these 'Morning in America' commercials that [President] Reagan used in the '80s. And with good reason. It was a town with these huge trees, and original gas lamps, and you could see that."

The story was shocking enough, under any circumstances. But Lefkowitz was flabbergasted by the reactions of people in the town, many of whom defended the accused.

School officials said they didn't want to be judgmental. Cheerleaders cried – for the boys. Leslie was accused of being a teenage seductress.

The research was more difficult than he had anticipated, however. Few people in Glen Ridge wished to speak to him. But as he traveled around the country, interviewing the female classmates of the accused rapists, he began to amass the details.

There was the story of the girl who threw a party to be popular, only to have her family's home destroyed – the jocks put the cat in the microwave and broke furniture for fun. There were the repeated accounts of Kevin Scherzer's habit of masturbating in class.

A pattern emerged of a coddled, protected jock elite whose behavior had always been excused with a "boys will be boys" shrug.

Few people in Glen Ridge wished to speak to him. But as he traveled around the country, interviewing the female classmates of the accused rapists, he began to amass the details.

On March 9, 1993 – more than four years after the rape and after five months of testimony – they were found guilty of various sexual assault charges. Grober, however, was acquitted of the most serious charge against him and was not sentenced to any time in prison.

Receiving relatively light sentences, the twins and Archer remained out of jail while their appeals wound through the New Jersey system.

The Glen Ridge boys – men now, in their late 20s – finally went to prison, their appeals exhausted, on June 30, 1997. Kyle Scherzer is expected to be released this year, with Kevin and Chris receiving parole in 1999.

But the person who haunts Lefkowitz is Leslie.

"I fear for her," he says. "I fear for her welfare. Because she's probably the most trusting person I've ever met in my life. I think that defines her in that she's really incapable of reading motive, of interpreting what someone's designs might be. I'm always anxious about her future."

(The Baltimore Sun)

Israel's population: A case of more is less?

Earthly Concerns



By Yehuda Ben Shaul

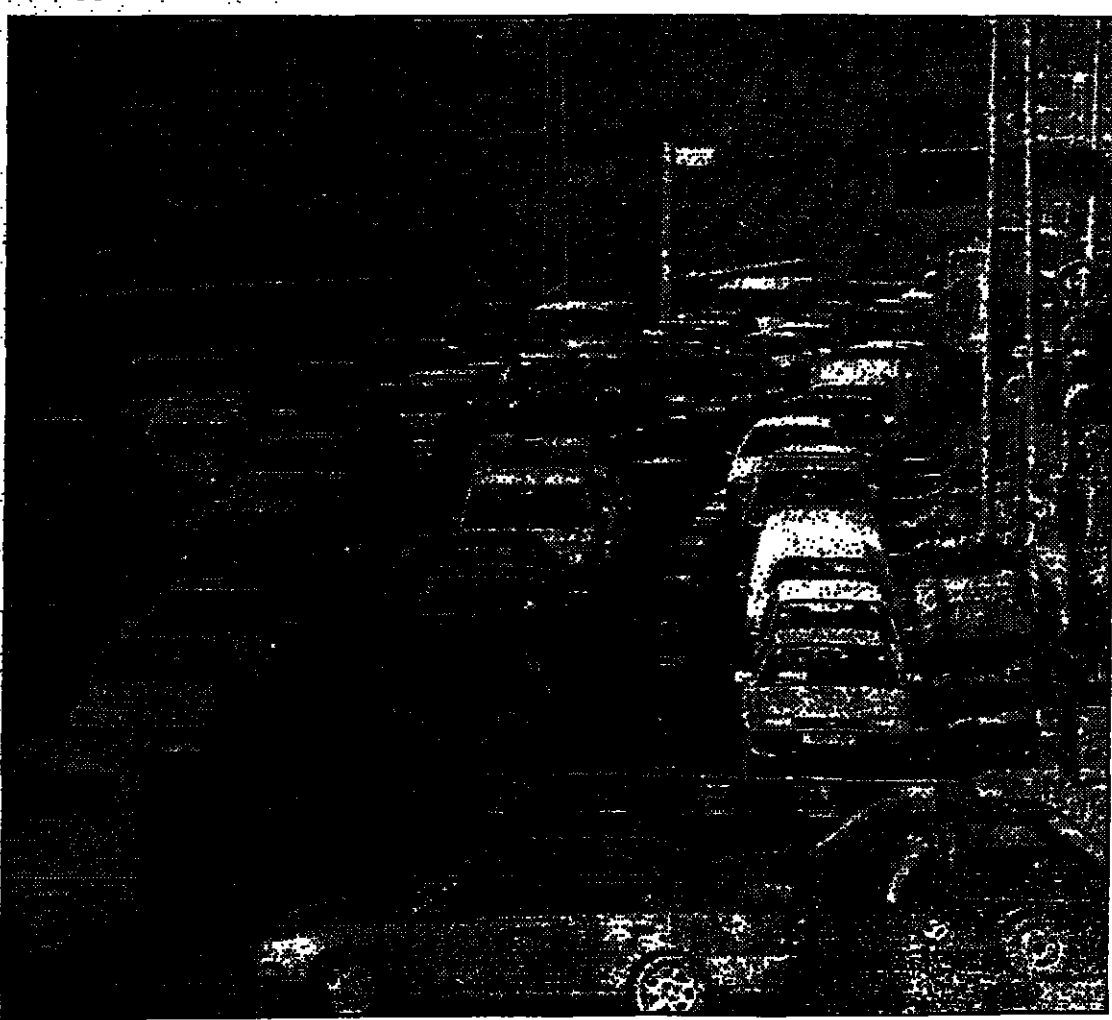
Does Israel really need to increase its population? Any discussion here of population problems generally focuses on other countries. In fact, even hinting that Israel might need to strive for zero population growth is anathema to many.

However, recent moves by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai suggest to encourage a higher Jewish birth rate and increase the population make the subject timely.

In the past 20 years, due mostly to mass immigration, Israel's population has gone from a little over half a million to more than five million. According to a 1992 Haifa Technion study, while in 1948, 3 percent of Israeli land was urbanized, roads or parking areas, in 1992, 17-18 percent was used for this purpose.

The drive for the suburban lifestyle has created urban sprawl that is encroaching on both agricultural land and natural areas, threatening both.

Given the expected natural demographic increase of one million persons per decade, this can be even worse. Coupled with the fact that 92% of the population lives in urban areas, it's clear that most of the aforementioned



By the year 2020 Israel's population should total between nine and 12 million, with some three million cars on the roads.

urbanized areas are in the northern half of the country.

By the year 2020 the population should total between nine and 12 million, and there will be some

three million cars on the roads. By then, 60% of the land in the Galilee will be paved over. There will also be few, if any, beaches for public bathing as increasing

portions of the coastline are turned into marinas, tourist facilities and luxury condominiums. Already air pollution in the cities is so severe that asthma in

children has tripled in the past decade. Scientists say that we may expect 1,000 excess deaths per year in non-smokers from respiratory diseases caused by inhaled particulate pollution.

Then there is the ever-present problem of water for domestic use, industry and agriculture. Right now, provided the rains come in season, we have just enough – but no surplus – water to replenish our depleted aquifers, even in the best years.

Certainly a drastic increase in population will be disastrous.

Yishai bases his demand for increased population on the fact that there were about 12 million Jews left in the world at the end of World War II, a number which has only remained steady. Certainly the loss of half that number in the Holocaust is to be mourned forever, but it is really incumbent upon us to replace that number?

True, there is the matter of quantity, but what about the quality of the lives of this and future generations? Are we to sacrifice every vestige of a decent, environmentally sound and sustainable lifestyle to demographic ambitions?

The Jewish people of the world are today in the happy state of zero population growth, zero attrition. Would that this were the case in every population. The environmental and ecological implications of an artificially induced boost in population are severe and widespread. Less than 25 years from now life here is going to be far different from what it is today, and there are no indications it will improve. Do we really want to add to this problem?

(Ariel Jerozolimski)

Mickey Mouse would be flabbergasted

As computer languages develop and multiply, companies like Disney are taking advantage of the new technology to create complicated animated scenes in movies like *Mulan*,
Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

Like people, computers communicate in a babel of tongues. But unlike French (which is lyrical), English (which is flexible and all-encompassing) and Hebrew (which is ancient), computer languages are made up of dull formulas of letters, words and figures.

There is hardly anything more likely to put the average computer user to sleep than a lecture on Cobol, C++ or Java.

Yet to Stanley Lippman, one of the developers of C++ at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, now principal software engineer at Walt Disney Studios' core technology department, these synthetic languages are more like a poem or song, except that they move computers rather than humans.

For example, Lippman's C++ powered the Disney computers to enable some of the most complicated scenes in *Mulan*, *Hercules* and other animated movies; they were drawn by computer rather than by hand.

Old Uncle Walt (Disney) would have been proud — though, as the father of hand-drawn Mickey Mouse, he probably would have been flabbergasted as well.

Lippman, born in Brooklyn, New York, and now living in Los Angeles, was here recently as a guest of the Sela Group, which includes companies dealing in computer training, software development, network communications and system management.

Lippman delivered a lecture to an audience of programming specialists on "Efficient C++ Programming" during Sela's Fourth Israeli Object-Oriented Days.

After earning a bachelor's degree in fine arts in Arizona, Lippman felt he had "missed something" by ignoring the sciences.

"I read an article about a computer program developed at Bell Labs that could read text and then try automatically to improve the writing. That excited me."

He taught himself programming (then it was a relatively primitive language, not the C++ he helped develop) and got a job in Manhattan as manager for the

hand in hand with human languages.

"I speak a little French, and I've tried to learn some Hebrew to help my kids in Hebrew school, but I haven't yet succeeded. For that, I suppose I would have to take an intensive course. Human languages have to be practiced every day."

Asked to "speak" a bit of C++, Lippman gives the following example:

```
Index=0
Index<100
Index++
Table[Index].print()
```

"This deals with a table of objects, such as book titles or people you want to invite to a party. The computer is told to go through a long list and put out a string of them to print as a file," he explains.



Lippman: C++ is a song.

Board of Global Ministries of the World Methodist Church.

Identifying himself as a Jew (who sends his children to Hebrew school), he was the church's first Jewish administrator.

"They were so happy with my work that they decided to pay for my master's degree in computer sciences, across the street at Columbia University."

Lippman is now completely fluent in advanced programming languages, but that skill doesn't go

WHILE computers are dumb machines that have to be told exactly what to do, Lippman felt suited to their languages because of his logical, analytic mind.

"When I explain something to someone, I tend to put everything into lists of one, two, three... A good programmer also needs spatial abilities. Writing a computer program requires you to structure things as you do when writing a piece of fiction."

Lippman adds that Jews do very well in the field of programming and computers in general, and that Israel — which he has visited five times in as many years, despite having no family here — has an excellent reputation among leaders of the US computer industry.

"Developing computer hardware costs a lot of money and is difficult for Israelis, but you can work



Mulan with her father in the new Disney film: There is much more to animated scenes than meets the eye.

on innovative software from a home office with a single phone line. You can do well even without a big financial investment," he notes.

Lippman wrote his textbook, *C++ Primer*, between 1986 and 1988. Incomprehensible to non-programmers, it has nevertheless sold over 300,000 copies around the world. The first edition had only 300 pages, the second edition double that, and the third over 1,000.

The original computer language, Fortran, is 40 years old, and it's still used for certain applications. C language, which has been around for 20 years, was invented by Dennis Ritchie of Bell Labs.

"It's still used today, but not as much as before," Lippman notes.

Java, created about the same time as C++, has become highly popular over the past three years because it makes multimedia presentations possible on the Internet.

"There really is a babel of computer tongues, because each one is appropriate for specific tasks. C++ requires more of a scientific background."

Lippman says that if a programmer knows C language, he can learn C++ relatively quickly. Students would need at least a semester in school to get the basics.

"There is a book that claims it can teach C++ in 24 hours — but that's ridiculous."

While he's a whiz at C++, there are other computer subjects, such as encryption and networking,

about which Lippman knows little. C++ and Java won't be the last computer languages, he says.

"There will always be new ones as computers develop; but for every 10 that are developed, only about two will arouse much interest — and it's getting harder and harder for them to do so."

Computer languages like C++ are important because they save time and effort.

"When NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, for example, dispatches something into space, computer codes can be reused for basic instructions instead of doing them manually each time," Lippman says.

In the same way, the codes can be used for computer animation of scenes that are so detailed, repeti-

tive and complex that it would take too much time for human artists to draw them.

FOUR years ago, Lippman moved his family to California to join Disney, where 20 or 30 programmers in the core technology department use computers to generate certain scenes — such as the charge of the Mongols in *Mulan*.

"I have screen credits for *Mulan*, *Hercules* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*."

"We are now working on a new version of *Fantasia* that will be released on New Year's Eve of the year 2000 in an international premiere. We are also doing a 3-D realistic dinosaur movie, with total computer animation and coloring."

Mark and Ingeborg: A virtual courtship

By JOHN M. MORAN

HARTFORD — The Internet is doing wonders for people in love who are separated by vast distances.

Mark Ford of Virginia and Ingeborg Govaarts of Holland, for example, were seeing a lot of each other — quite a feat, considering they were separated by an ocean.

What made their relationship possible was a videophone, operating over the Internet, that allowed them to see as well as hear each other.

For literally hours a day they would sit in front of their computers, pursuing their virtual courtship — and now they're getting married.

"The fact that we could see each other, see each other's emotions and expressions — that's the most important thing of video," Govaarts said. "That's definitely something that brought us together."

For more than 30 years, videophones have been touted as the future of telephone calling. But for nearly as long, efforts to make them a reality have been defeated by the technical challenges of sending video over phone lines.

Now, those difficulties are beginning to give way. Video telephony is among a slew of improvements and innovations transforming the relationship between telephones, computers and the Internet.

THE trend began in 1995 when the first Internet phones hit the market. They were crude. Sound quality was generally poor, and the software was difficult to configure properly.

A mere three years later, not only have Internet phone programs vastly improved in quality, several software makers have made video, as well as voice, a standard part of their products.

"The Internet has evolved quite dramatically over the past few years and is really becoming a much more viable medium to allow people to connect using sight and sound in a variety of ways," said Jeff Abbate, product manager for Intel's Create & Share Camera Pack, a leading videophone package. "Where before you would only type at somebody over the Internet, today you can do it not only with voice but with some level of sight as well."

To be sure, the Internet-based videophones in use today don't approach the quality of conventional TV. The screen display is small (typically about two inches square), the picture is a bit blurry, and the motion is jerky.

Scott Buckley, associate product manager for VocalTec, a



Conventional videophones like this one never caught on, but combined with Internet technology, they're becoming increasingly popular.

Herzliya-based Israeli videophone software-maker, said consumers' desire for better quality is a powerful force for improvement.

"When they really think about how far it's come along in the last year and a half, they are satisfied," Buckley said. "But their expectations of the technology are very high. And that's what's moving the market right now, pushing it to provide better solutions."

For large numbers of people, the quality issues are nothing compared to the benefit of being able to see loved ones who live far away.

"What we're finding is that as these products become more affordable and relate to ways that people are already communicating, it just takes off."

"And that's what's happening now," said Rob Hudson, a product manager for 3Com, whose Bigpicture videophone brought Ford and Govaarts together.

This accessibility is allowing many people to try different uses for the technology.

Some use it for one-to-one conversations. Others try videoconferencing.

Still others use it as a visual version of an on-line "chat

room," where they meet and exchange messages.

For a very large majority of users, it's something they've never experienced before. They're out there meeting people, and having a fun time with it.

Among the hardware needed are a personal computer, phone software, a computer video camera, a microphone, a high-speed modem and a special video or graphics card (only with some products).

Several firms are attempting to make the process of assembling these pieces easier by bundling them into a single product.

In all cases, people using the devices must connect with someone using compatible equipment.

THE biggest barrier to even more explosive growth of videophone usage is the slow speed of the Internet, or more precisely, the slow speed at which most people connect to the Internet.

Manufacturers say they are continuing to make progress in compressing video and audio, making it easier to transfer over modem connections.

But, they add, significant leaps in sound and video quality won't be possible until people can link to the Internet at speeds much

faster than today's 28.8K or 33.6K modems.

Some videophone products bypass the Internet altogether, by allowing users to connect directly over the phone lines.

While such connections can provide better quality than Internet-based ones, they don't offer the kinds of savings on long-distance tolls that the Internet does.

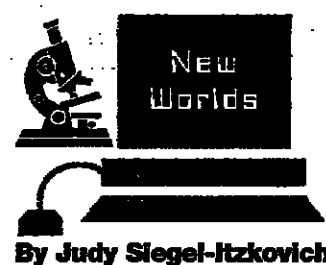
But videophones aren't the only advance in Internet telephony: There is the ability of users of special Internet phones to call someone who has a conventional telephone.

John Clayton, chairman and chief executive at NetPhone of Marlborough, Massachusetts, said Internet telephone and videophones are just part of the way computers and networks are transforming the telephone system.

Soon, many corporations will be sending telephone calls over internal networks or the Internet instead of the long-distance phone system, said Clayton, whose company makes gateways and computer telephony servers.

"It's happening fast. There's a tremendous amount of technological change going on," he said. (The Hartford Courant)

Bumblers make great pollinators



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Honey bees are at risk of becoming unemployed, by their less-aggressive but more stinging bumble bee cousins.

Whether honey bees are hardworking or lazy in pollinating plants as they search for nectar can make a difference of up to 40 percent in agricultural yield.

Basic research into chemical communication among animals at Tel Aviv University's new Bessner

Building for Zoological Research has led to the development of commercially reared species of bumble bees for commercial-scale pollination of crops, leading to lower costs and increased production.

Honey bees are attracted to flowers by the nectar, while drawing out the sweet stuff, they transfer pollen stuck on their feet to another flower. There are crops that, without pollination, would not produce yields at all, says TAU Prof. Abraham Hefetz, who heads the lab communication.

"Agro-technology has led to the development of crop strains to which bees are not attracted: hybrid crops, which are very successful agricultural exports, are based on the use of sterile flowers."

Bees quickly learn that the flowers used to produce hybrid seeds have no nectar, so they avoid such fields, leaving pollination to be carried out by hand.

Hefetz suggested developing local bumble bees as a substitute for honey bees, to avoid the labor-intensive process of artificial pollination.

His lab research on pheromones — chemical communication agents among animals — has played a major role in manipulating bumble bees so they "agree" to pollinate flowers.

The honey bee doesn't shake the stamen of the flower to release the pollen; the vibration ordinarily has to be performed by hand. But its rather bumbling counterpart bumps into and buzzes flowers with its wings, unintentionally shaking them and causing pollen to fall on its body and stick to the pistil of another flower.

The bumble bees are pollinating so well that farmers are buying hives of them.

When the 'confident' witness is wrong

By DOUG FIZEL

Fingerprints, DNA matches and other forensic indicators that a suspect has committed a crime. But studies have found that when courts hear a case, nothing beats the confident testimony of an eyewitness — even when the eyewitness is completely wrong.

Research has shown that incorrect eyewitness identifications account for more convictions of innocent persons than all other causes combined.

Now a new study reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, published by the American Psychological Association (APA), provides even further evidence that eyewitness testimony may not deserve the confidence that many jurors have in it.

Psychologist Dr. Gary Wells and Ph.D. candidate Amy Bradfield of Iowa State University conducted two experiments to test the degree to which eyewitnesses are influenced by the positive or negative feedback they get immediately after making an identification. Providing such feedback, the authors say, is a common police practice.

Their findings were both unexpected and alarming.

In the two studies, which involved a total of 352 people, the researchers had participants watch a grainy surveillance camera videotape of a person who later shot and killed a store security guard. They were then presented with a photo spread of five faces that did not include the actual gunman, but were asked to identify the man they had seen on the videotape.

After the participants in the first study made their identifications (which were, of course, always wrong), they were randomly told: "Good. You identified the actual

suspect in the case." or "Oh. You identified number X. The suspect is number Y." Or they received no feedback.

The participants then filled out a form with a long series of questions about their identification, asking, for example, how good a view they had had of the gunman, how well they were able to make out specific features of the gunman's face from the video, and how certain they were of their identification at the time they made it. They were also asked how easy or difficult it was to figure out which photo was that of the gunman, and how willing they would be to testify in court that the person they identified was the gunman.

As expected, those who received positive feedback were more confident of their identification than those who received either negative feedback or no feedback at all — even though all participants were equally wrong.

However, the positive feedback about the supposed accuracy of their identification seemed to make the participants remember almost everything about their identification differently.

In addition to being more confident of their choice of photographs, they also remembered having a better view of the culprit, having paid greater attention to the videotape, making the identification, needing less time to make the identification and being better able to make out details of the culprit's face than those who received negative or no feedback.

In other words, positive feedback distorted the witnesses' reports of almost every aspect of the identification process. It served, the authors say, "to manufacture credible witnesses from a pool of inaccurate witnesses who were not particularly credible on their own. We

are alarmed at these findings."

THE second study, a variation of the first, also found that while most eyewitnesses denied that positive feedback had had any influence over how they recalled making their identifications, it did have influence nonetheless.

But the second study also found a potential "antidote" to the influence of positive feedback: asking questions before giving feedback.

In this study, some participants randomly selected, were asked how confident they were about their identifications before receiving any feedback. The authors say asking such a question — and probably others — might help prevent eyewitnesses being unduly influenced by positive feedback.

The authors say they see no reason why the effects seen in these experiments would somehow disappear in real cases. In fact, they say, feedback might even have stronger effects in real cases.

Another reason for alarm is the fact that the criteria most courts use to determine the likely accuracy of an eyewitness's identification of a criminal suspect — presumably to keep eyewitnesses who are not credible off the stand — would have no effect in detecting or countering feedback-caused memory distortion.

Based on these findings, the authors strongly advocate that lineups and photo spreads be supervised by someone who does not know who the suspect is, and that eyewitnesses at least be asked about their confidence — and have their responses recorded — "at the time of the identification, rather than after there is an opportunity for other events to influence the eyewitnesses' confidence and other judgments." (Iowa State University News Service)

AIDS increase gets Israelis and Arabs talking

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

It's become a biennial ritual. Physicians, researchers, nurses and public health experts meet somewhere in the world to discuss the newest developments in the war against AIDS.

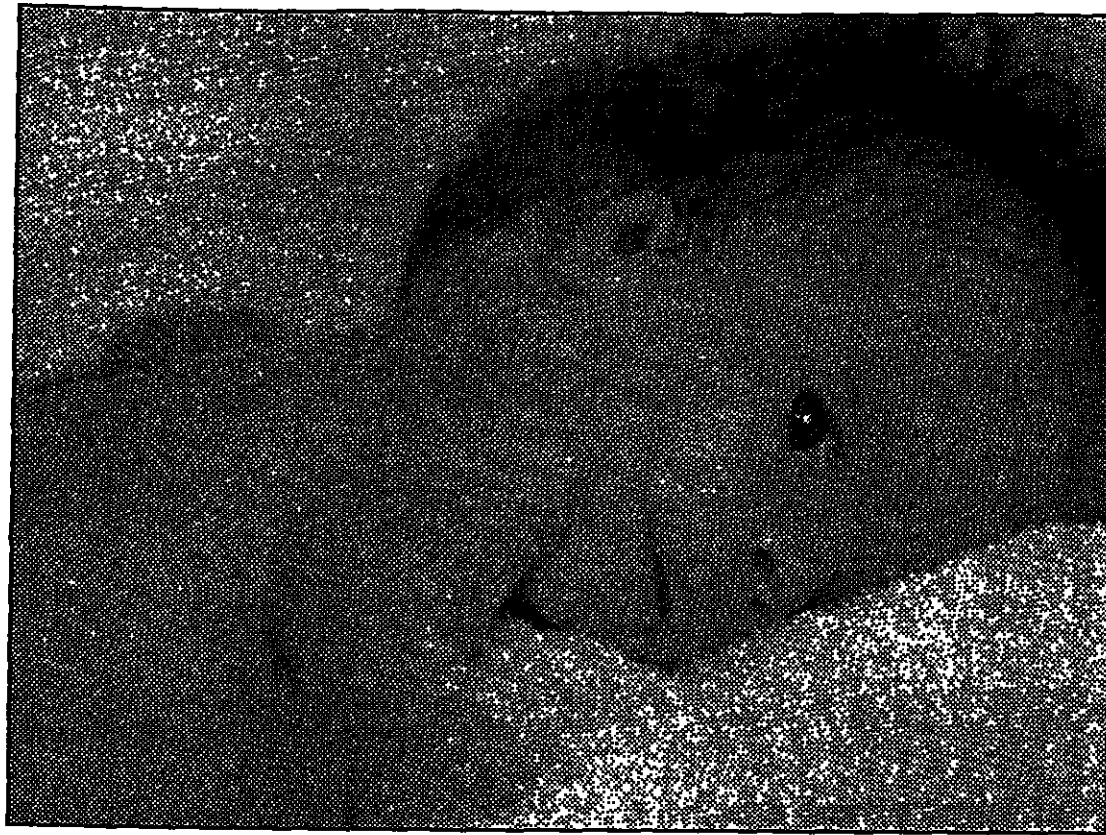
At the 1996 meeting in Vancouver, participants were excited by the discovery of an expensive drug "cocktail" that had been effective in slowing the proliferation of the HIV virus in the bodies of carriers and AIDS patients. There was even hopeful talk of a vaccine.

But at this month's weeklong conference in Geneva the tone was more sober. A vaccine is now being tested, but its efficacy is in doubt. The conference stressed, in thousands of lectures, poster sessions and informal talks, that the anti-AIDS cocktail was not a cure-all, but a very difficult regimen to follow.

It was also pointed out that the cocktail's high cost put it beyond the reach of the majority of HIV carriers and AIDS patients who live in the Third World - where a day's worth of protease inhibitors would cost more than the government spends on health care per capita in a year.

Two participants - one a Jerusalem public health and AIDS education expert, the other a South African pediatrician working in a Soweto hospital - told *The Jerusalem Post* their impressions of the conference.

DR. Tammy Meyers, a 37-year-old physician at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in the black South African city of two million, is presently in Israel visiting her only



The anti-AIDS cocktail is only a dream for children born with the virus, like this nine-month-old South African baby. Now the virus's proliferation in the Middle East is worrying public health specialists.

sister, Ingrid. A graduate of the University of Witwatersrand's medical school, Meyers lives in Johannesburg, about 20 kilometers away from Soweto.

The hospital where she works is "the biggest in the world" with 3,000 beds - 164 of them for children. But there are often many more

patients than that.

"When it's very overcrowded, there are two patients in a single bed," she said.

About a third of the pediatric patients have been infected with HIV by their mothers, either during delivery or, less frequently, via breast-feeding (other patients are

there for tuberculosis, malnutrition and intestinal and other infections).

The anti-AIDS cocktail is only a dream for these HIV children. AZT and the other protease inhibitors are not supplied to the children or their mothers during pregnancy - even though taking it before delivery can significantly reduce the risk of ver-

tical infection from mother to baby. "There's no mass screening of pregnant women for HIV, and no cocktail, so we're helpless in preventing infection," Meyers says.

Even in New York City, where Meyers recently did a four-month sabbatical, pregnant women aren't routinely tested for AIDS. Newborn babies are - but then it's already too late.

Baragwanath is the only public hospital in Soweto; there are a few private medical centers for the minority who can afford them. All South African children up to the age of five get free medical care, but the public clinics and hospitals offer much less than their Western counterparts.

Meyers says that public health efforts in Soweto have been intensive, so "most people know what AIDS is. It's in the media, and people are talking about it more. But there's still a lot of ignorance about how it's transmitted, and inadequate means to prevent infection."

According to recent statistics, between 16 and 20 percent of the black population are infected with HIV.

"Parents die of AIDS, and the extended family - usually grandparents and aunts - take responsibility for raising the orphans. Many babies die of the disease in their first year, but some continue for some years, and may even have a near-normal life. We have children with AIDS who are 10 years old and go to school."

Meyers was especially interested in lectures at the AIDS conference about simple, inexpensive means of maintaining good health in patients, such as giving Vitamin A.

Most AIDS in Africa is heterosex-

ually transmitted. Homosexuality and drug use are not major causes of infection, she says.

"Working with children is depressing, because if we had the means we could prevent many from being infected. But at least we try to give them a better quality of life. I and my colleagues are pushing for improved treatment. The problem is not solvable at the moment. It's going to get worse - but you can't give up on the children."

The Mandela government, Meyers adds, hasn't been able to do much against AIDS. "They've tried, but there are so many other problems and priorities."

Meyers and her colleagues - the hospital staff include blacks and whites from South Africa, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya and various European countries, including Holland - routinely decide which patients will live and which will die.

AIDS in the Middle East was also discussed at the conference, in an official satellite session set up by the Israeli delegation.

The session included lectures by participants from Jordan, Morocco, Turkey and Gaza, and was attended by doctors and public health specialists from Iran, Libya, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. According to Inon Schenker, director of the Jerusalem AIDS program, the World Health Organization expects a significant increase in the incidence of HIV infections in the Middle East (including Israel), largely due to foreign workers and drug abuse.

And despite its conservative society, Iran is already showing much

higher HIV infection rates, experts said.

"Although drug abuse was mostly stuff that was smoked, according to WHO experts there is a real increase in infection through heroin in Iran," Schenker says.

Heterosexual contacts are another common way HIV is spread in the Middle East, followed by transmission from mother to baby and between homosexuals.

The Mideast public health specialists were able to bridge the diplomatic ill will caused by the paralyzed peace process to collaborate on the AIDS problem.

After the Israeli-sponsored satellite session a Libyan researcher from a Tripoli university told Schenker he would attend a Jerusalem meeting on AIDS in the fall "if enough other Arabs came so that I wouldn't be an exception."

AIDS experts from the UN urged that Middle East health professionals participate in epidemiological research to give a better picture of HIV infection rates in the area.

Schenker said it was agreed that basic questionnaires would be distributed among participants, with data updated as information becomes available.

The Israeli delegation was particularly moved by the story of a 22-year-old woman who was infected by a boyfriend when she was 17. ("She said she was taking The Pill, but that didn't protect her from HIV," Schenker noted.)

"We saw how difficult it is to take the 15 or 20 AIDS cocktail pills a day, each under specific conditions. We must do more to prevent teenagers from being infected that way."

Good news for sufferers of prostate cancer

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Brachytherapy has come to Israel, and is being used successfully against prostate cancer.

The radiation technique, used for several years against breast cancer, and initially developed in Denmark, was recently performed on five patients at Ichilov Hospital. It not only has survival rates as high or higher than surgery or external radiation, it also significantly reduces the risk of impotence.

In brachytherapy (short therapy), a needle implants tiny radioactive pellets through the skin between the testicles and the rectum, into the tumor site.

The patient, who undergoes an epidural anesthetic, is spared incisions and can go home soon after treatment. The pellets remain in the body to destroy the cancer, and the patient can resume normal activity in a week.

Prof. Haim Matzkin, head of the hospital's urology department, says the technique won't replace existing treatments: surgery and traditional radiation treatments given on an outpatient basis over a period of two months.

However, he notes, brachytherapy is much more convenient for the patient while being no less effective.

"It's unique for men with primary prostate cancer that hasn't spread beyond the gland," Matzkin explains, noting that one out of 14 men over the age of 50 will develop prostate cancer.

Because brachytherapy is minimally invasive, only 20 percent of

the patients become impotent - a much lower rate than after prostate surgery - and fewer become incontinent. And since the radiation is delivered directly to the tumor, the concentration is three times that of external radiation.

Matzkin and three Ichilov colleagues spent several weeks at the Northwest Cancer Center in Seattle, Washington, studying the technique with Prof. Hakkon Ragde, a Norwegian-born expert.

After receiving permission from the Health Ministry, the hospital invested in equipment and training before offering brachytherapy. "It also requires that urologists and oncologists be of one mind," said Matzkin.

About 87 to 95 percent of patients who have undergone the procedure show no recurrence of the tumor five to 10 years later - a survival rate as good as surgery, and better than external radiation.

The procedure has received an official ministry "code" for ambulatory treatment, and Matzkin hopes to see the health funds including it soon in their basket of services.

NEUROSURGERY OKAYED AT HERZLIYA CENTER

The private Herzliya Medical Center is now an option for children and adults who need neurosurgery.

The private center was recently authorized by the Health Ministry to perform all types of neurosurgery, the first to receive such permission in a decade.

Prof. Zvi Rappaport of the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus will coordinate the new service. The Leumit and Meuhedet health funds will pay for neurosurgery at HMC; the other two insurers will decide on a case-by-case basis.

Six public hospitals do neurosurgery: Rambam, Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, Ichilov, Beilinson, Sheba, Soroka, and Assuta, which is owned by the Maccabi health fund.

The great salt debate - still peppered with controversy

By THOMAS H. MAUGH II

From the dim beginnings of the human race, people have craved salt.

Early hominids sought out salt licks to satisfy their needs; the first agriculturists put it in their bread.

And, as cities and towns began to develop, men established the first trading routes in order to procure salt on their tables.

In some countries, salt was traded for gold, ounce for ounce. The Chinese made coins out of salt, and the Romans paid their soldiers a salary, or payment in salt ("salary").

Today, however, salt is viewed a bit differently - at least by health authorities.

Although humans still crave it avidly and it is routinely used to enhance flavor, most major medical groups urge us to remove it from our tables and our kitchens.

Salt, they say, is a leading cause of high blood pressure, and this hypertension, in turn, is a major cause of heart attacks, strokes and death.

To combat the foul effects, they say, virtually everyone should put the saltcellar down. Bland is beautiful.

High blood pressure in an adult is defined as greater than or equal to 140/90, where 140 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) is the systolic pressure (when the heart is beating) and 90 mm Hg is the diastolic pressure (the pressure between beats).

But hold on, a vocal minority of researchers insist. While it is clear that salt is linked to hypertension in some individuals, they say, the vast majority of people are either unaffected by it, or can control hypertension by simply eating a healthier diet. And in some cases, low salt consumption might even be dangerous.

"The issue is not blood pressure," says Dr. Michael Alderman of New York's Albert Einstein College of Medicine, who is also president of the American Society of Hypertension. "The issue is life, heart attacks and strokes. There is no evidence that

lowering salt intake will extend life, or make it better in any way. Without such evidence we aren't justified in asking 250 million Americans to change their diet."

"For 20 years, we have not told people what they need to hear - which is that the best way to control blood pressure is to control weight, drink alcohol only in moderation and exercise," says Dr. David McCarron of Oregon Health Sciences University.

"If I had to make a list of health factors, sodium chloride reduction would not make the top 10."

Others, of course, disagree. "We have the massive accumu-

lation of 50 years of data on the relationship between salt intake and blood pressure, and the havoc that higher average blood pressure wreaks," says Dr. Jeffrey Cutler of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

"I don't think we can say with a great degree of certainty that the optimally low sodium intake should be; but we can say that the vast majority of people eat far too much salt."

There is no question that a link exists between salt and hypertension, says Dr. Myron Weinberger of the Indiana University School of Medicine. His studies, like those of others, have shown that about 60 percent of hypertensives are sensi-

tive to salt - that is, their blood pressure rises when they consume more salt, and it falls when they consume less.

Only about a quarter of that 12 grams originates in the salt shaker at home. The rest comes from processed foods - everything from soup to nuts. It is the presence of salt in so much purchased food that makes it difficult to drastically reduce consumption.

NUMEROUS clinical studies on salt use and hypertension have produced conflicting results.

One group from London's Imperial College School of Medicine found a link between salt intake and blood pressure at

all ages, strongest among the middle-aged.

At about the same time, however, University of Toronto researchers compiled the results from 56 separate studies and concluded that low-salt diets had no effect on people with normal blood pressures.

While researchers keep debating the issue among themselves, people concerned about their blood pressure can, in the meantime, do many things for themselves.

The most important is a change in diet - not necessarily to a low-salt diet, but to one high in fruits, vegetables and dairy products, all of which contain the minerals calcium, potassium and magnesium.

"If you have enough of these other minerals, staying on a normal salt diet actually gives you the lowest blood pressure," says Oregon's McCarron.

He was the lead investigator of a trial called Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH), which is low in fat and includes two to three servings of low-fat or fat-free milk and dairy products, and eight to 10 servings of fruit and vegetables each day.

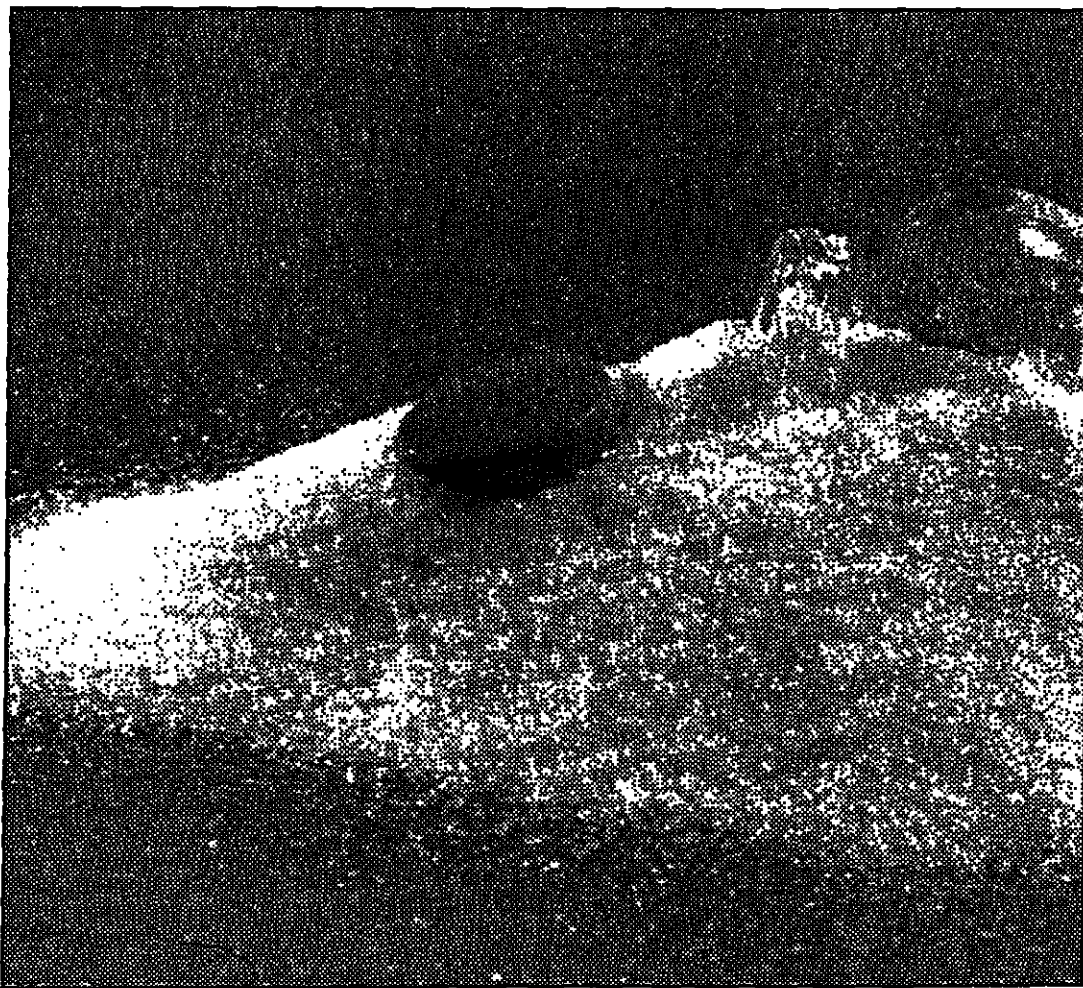
Everyone who stuck to the DASH diet reported some decrease in blood pressure, as well as weight loss, the researchers reported last year.

"It's amazing how many adults do not consume calcium-containing products like milk," one researcher says. "The only thing they will eat is cheese, and a lot of that is very high in fat."

"I also tell my patients not to take calcium tablets as a substitute. Whenever we focus on a single nutrient and give it as a pill, we don't see much of an effect. It's the nutritional package, what travels with these elements, that is important."

And such diets have many other benefits as well. They not only help prevent heart attacks and strokes, says Dr. Paul Whelton of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, but "we would also anticipate a reduction in the likelihood of diabetes, arthritis, breast cancer and osteoporosis."

(The Los Angeles Times)



Is bland really beautiful? A vocal minority of researchers, bucking the conventional wisdom, insist that lowering salt intake will neither extend nor improve life.

(Joel Fishman)

Looking at what our hearts desire - under the microscope

By JEFF QUINN

What do people around the world really want? A new study by researchers at Ohio State University in Columbus has concluded that people have 15 intrinsic, fundamental desires and values that guide their behavior. These include basic needs such as food, as well as social desires like freedom, social contact and honor.

"Nearly everything important a human being wants can be reduced to one or more of these 15 core desires, most of which have a genetic basis," said Steven Reiss, co-author of the study and an OSU professor of psychology and psychology.

"These desires are what guide our actions in life. We are studying the meaning of life."

Results of the research appear in the December issue of the journal *Psychological Assessment*.

This is the first time researchers have ever conducted a scientifically valid survey of intrinsic desires, Reiss said. Other research assumed that humans have only one fundamental desire or value in life.

THESE are the 15 fundamental human desires and values: curiosity (the desire to learn); food (the desire to eat); honor (morality, or the desire to behave in accordance with code of conduct); and rejection (the fear of social rejection).

Then there's sex (the desire for sexual behavior and fantasies); physical exercise (the desire for physical activity); and order (the desired amount of organization in daily life).

After that come independence (the desire to make one's own decisions); vengeance (the desire to retaliate when offended); social contact (a desire for the company of others); and family (the

desire to spend time with one's near and dear).

Finally, there's social prestige (the desire for prestige and positive attention); aversive sensations (the aversion to pain and anxiety); citizenship (the desire for public service and social justice); and power (the desire to influence people).

"Psychologists in the past have come up with theories that make one desire more important for people than any other," Reiss said.

"For example, Freud thought that sex was the primary goal for everyone. But our results show that when it comes to values and desires, one size does not fit all. There does not seem to be any fixed hierarchy of values true of all people."

Reiss and Susan Havercamp, a graduate student in psychology, developed the list of 15 fundamental desires by first generating a list of more than 300 state-

ments referring to specific desires or values people might have.

People were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with statements such as "I love learning new skills," "I must avoid pain," and "I would rather lose my life than lose my honor."

After testing more than 2,500 people, the researchers used a mathematical technique called factor analysis that grouped the responses into 15 fundamental desires and values.

At least 12 of the 15 fundamental desires - citizenship, independence and fear of rejection are the exceptions - seem to have a genetic basis, Reiss said.

"Most of these desires are similar to those seen in animals, and seem to have some survival value," Reiss said. "This indicates they are genetic in origin."

Based on this work, the researchers have developed a new test called the Reiss Profiles, that can measure individ-

ual differences in these 15 desires and goals.

"This is the first psychological test designed to profile what it is a person intrinsically desires," Reiss said. Testing has confirmed that people show a wide variety of responses to the various desires, he added.

ONE example is the desire for sex. "Sex may be pleasurable to everyone, but it isn't equally motivational. Some people orient their whole lives around sex, while some people put very little effort or energy into pursuing it," Reiss said.

"It's the same for every desire: Some people are pursuing achievement and some people are not. Some people put a great deal of importance on family, and others don't."

"Understanding how important these fundamental desires are to individuals can explain a lot about how people act."

The new test has a wide variety of potential uses, including the possible early prediction of mental illness. People with mental illnesses often have extreme or unusual desires or values. The test may be able to detect these early on, Reiss said.

Schizophrenics, for instance, often have little concern about what others think of them, and may score low on desires such as the fear of social rejection or the desire for social contact.

"By evaluating extreme or unusual desires in children, we may be able to provide help before mental illness occurs in full force during adulthood," Reiss said.

Reiss is continuing this research by studying how different groups, such as the mentally ill and substance abusers, score differently from others on the profiles.

(Ohio State University News Service)

FINANCIAL MARKETS

US stocks finish week strong

Wall Street

Strong profit reports by Microsoft and Sun Microsystems fueled another strong day for technology stocks, leading most market measures further into record territory Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average never strayed as much as 30 points all day, but finished 9 points higher at nearly 9,338, padding Thursday's record.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index, which on Thursday crossed 2,000 for the first time, rose to an eighth straight record close.

Smaller-company shares lagged the blue-chip advance again, with declines outnumbering advances on the broad market.

The flow of second-quarter profit news remained encouraging with late Thursday's reports from Microsoft, Sun Microsystems and PepsiCo, all of which topped Wall Street forecasts.

In economic news, the Commerce Department reported that the US trade deficit in goods and services climbed to \$15.7 billion in May as the economic troubles in Asia helped push US exports to the lowest level in 15 months.

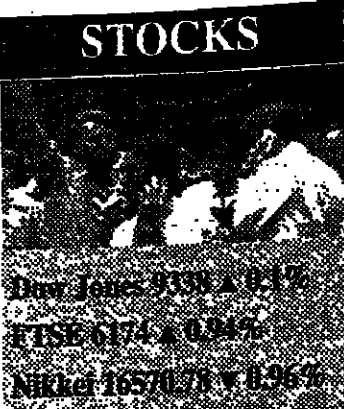
The data, which exceeded most projections, bolstered arguments that the US economy may be slowing enough to keep inflation in check. That will probably keep the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates to cool the economy.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 9.78 to 9,337.97, its third record close this week after a two-month drought.

The Dow rose 232.23 for the week, extending this year's gain to 18.1%.

The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 2.67 to 1,186.69, and the Nasdaq composite rose 8.20 to 2,008.76.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by a 10-to-9 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,384 up, 1,548 down and



NYSE volume totaled 613.78 million shares, vs. 676.49 million in the previous session.

The NYSE composite index rose 0.76 to a record 600.75, crossing 600 for the first time.

The American Stock Exchange composite index rose 4.42 to 736.23.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 1.28 to 462.36.

Europe

Europe's major bourses hit record highs on Friday as participants hoped US interest rates may have peaked amid signs of a slowing US economy.

Blue chips in London, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid, Stockholm and Zurich ended the week with record closing highs as Wall Street inched ahead following a 93-point advance on Thursday.

News that the US trade deficit had widened 10.3% to a record \$15.7 billion in May raised hopes that further US interest rate rises may not be necessary due to signs of a slowdown in the world's biggest economy.

"It is a strikingly weak number. I believe the US economy shrank in the second quarter. I think we're going to report negative GDP [gross domestic product growth]," said David Kelly, senior economist at Primatec Decision Economics. US exports to Asia were sharply

down, confirming a long-held market view that the region's financial crisis will impact on growth in Western economies.

The US Federal Reserve has in the past raised interest rates to take the heat out of the economy but further rises may not be necessary now that there are clear signs the pace of growth is easing, economists said.

European currency markets ignored the US data and were dominated by dollar sellers for the fourth consecutive day on growing hopes for an end to political and economic stalemate in Japan and Russia, traders said.

"The focus was exclusively on Russia and Japan," said Rob Hayward, economic adviser at Bank of America. "The dollar rallied as we started the week on negative views of both." But the view towards Japan turned, in that the resignation of Prime Minister [Ryutaro] Hashimoto may allow new and speedier reform and I think the International Monetary Fund will approve the necessary funds for Russia on Monday."

Asia

Tokyo stocks finished moderately lower, as traders took profits ahead of a three-day weekend amid uncertainty about who will be Japan's next prime minister, brokers said.

The 225-share Nikkei average closed at 16,570.78, down 161.14 points, or 0.96% from last week.

In Hong Kong, stocks closed Friday higher with index heavy-weight HSBC Holdings driving the advance, fuelled by overseas market strength, brokers said.

The Hang Seng index closed at 8,628.93, up 42.36 points, or 0.49%, up 423.16 on the week.

A late slide in the futures market saw the Australian share market limp home with only small gains.

The All Ordinaries index closed at 2,814.7, up 4.1 points, or 0.15%, a gain of 66.8 from a week ago. (Agencies)

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McGwire hits two homers to reach 42

St. LOUIS (Reuters) — Mark McGwire hit two home runs to bring his major league-leading total to 42, and Juan Acevedo pitched six scoreless innings to win his third straight start as the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers, 4-1, on Friday.

With one out in the first inning, McGwire launched Brian Robertson's 1-0 pitch deep to left field to give the Cardinals a 1-0 lead. McGwire was walked in the fourth and sixth innings and St. Louis fans booed reliever Antonio Osuna when he threw a ball to McGwire with one out in the eighth. But the slugger sent the next pitch 425 feet over the left-field fence.

McGwire's 42 homers break the major-league mark through July that was set by Babe Ruth in 1928 and tied by Jimmie Foxx in 1932.

Cubs 6, Marlins 1
At Florida, Sammy Sosa belted his 36th home run and drove in three runs and Steve Trachsel tossed a five-hitter for his first complete game in nearly two years as the Chicago Cubs coasted to a 6-1 victory over the Florida Marlins, who have lost three in a row.

Sosa snapped a five-game homerless drought to move within five of St. Louis' Mark McGwire for the major-league lead.

Mickey Morandini had three hits and an RBI for the Cubs, who have won four of six.

Braves 4, Brewers 1
In Atlanta, Tim Lincecum pitched seven shutout innings to join teammate Greg Maddux as the only 13-game winners in the National League. Lincecum and Denny Bautista, Chipper Jones and Andrew Jones added solo homers as the Atlanta Braves defeated the Milwaukee Brewers, 4-1.

Glavine (13-4) allowed six hits and two walks with three strikeouts. Bautista, spelling Ryan Klesko with a run start in left field, hit just his second homer of the year in the second off former Brave Brad Woodall (4-5) to give Atlanta a 1-0 lead.

Chipper Jones hit his 25th homer with two out in the fifth and Andrew Jones led off the sixth with his 13th.

Padres 13, Reds 3
In Cincinnati, the Reds saw their 10-game winning streak come to an

end as the San Diego Padres got a club record six homers, including two apiece from Greg Vaughn and Tony Gwynn, in a 13-3 rout. Cincinnati has won 16 of its last 18 games.

Vaughn hit a three-run shot off loser Mike Remlinger (6-10) in the sixth for his 32nd of the season.

Ruben Rivera hit his first career grand slam, and Andy Ashby (13-5) won his third straight start.

Astros 10, Giants 7
In Houston, Derek Bell's two-run single highlighted a five-run fourth inning and the Houston Astros pounded out 17 hits in a 10-7 victory over the slumping San Francisco Giants.

Bell finished with three RBI and Craig Biggio and Sean Berry each had three hits for the Astros.

Jose Lima (8-5) won for the first time in over a month despite allowing six runs and eight hits in eight innings.

Pirates 5, Expos 1
In Montreal, emergency starter Mike Williams allowed five hits in as many innings and Mark Smith had two hits and two RBI to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 5-1 victory over the Montreal Expos.

Williams (2-0) was given the start after Pittsburgh traded scheduled starter Esteban Loaiza to the Texas Rangers this afternoon in exchange for right-hander Todd Van Poppel and minor-league infielder Warren Morris. Making his first start in two years, Williams allowed one run, walked one and struck out four.

Mets 6, Phillies 0
In New York, Hideo Nomo earned his first win with New York, allowing just three hits with nine strikeouts over seven scoreless innings, and Brian McRae doubled twice, homered and collected three RBI as the slumping Mets defeated the Philadelphia Phillies, 6-0.

In his strongest performance this season, Nomo (3-8) cruised to his first win since April 28th, when he pitched for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

McRae gave Nomo a 3-0 cushion in the second inning with a two-run double off rookie Carlton Loewer (4-2) and doubled and scored in the fifth as New York grabbed a 5-0 advantage.

The Mets had lost eight of 10 games and 17 of 25 since June 16th.

Diamondbacks 9, Rockies 6
At Arizona, rookie Travis Lee went 3-for-4 with three RBI and Devon White belted a three-run homer as the Arizona Diamondbacks finally gave Willie Blair some run support in a 9-6 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

Colorado had scored a total of nine runs in Blair's last six starts, resulting in five losses. Blair (4-13), who leads the major leagues in losses, won his second game in 10 starts.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Mariners 18, Royals 5
In Seattle, Dan Wilson drilled a three-run homer and drove in a career-high six runs and David Segui and Alex Rodriguez each had four hits to pace a 22-hit attack as the Seattle Mariners pounded the Kansas City Royals, 18-5, for their fifth straight victory.

Rodriguez ended a 15-game homerless drought with his 28th of the season, a three-run shot in the second off Glendon Rusch (6-11), giving the Mariners a 6-3 lead.

Wilson's blast an inning later off Jim Pitsley made it 9-3. Jay Buhner added a two-run shot in the fourth off Pitsley.

The much-maligned Mariners bullpen has allowed just seven earned runs over 29 innings in July for a 2.17 ERA.

Every Seattle starter with the exception of Ken Griffey Jr. had at least one hit and scored a run.

Blue Jays 9, Yankees 6
In Toronto, Roger Clemens struck out 10 in seven innings to win his sixth straight decision and Shawn Green hit two homers, including a game-breaking grand slam, as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the New York Yankees, 9-6.

Clemens (11-6) allowed one run, five hits and two walks as he reached double figures in strikeouts for the fourth time this season and the 86th time in his career. He is 6-0 in his last nine starts after a 5-6 start.

Dan Plesac and Paul Quantrill combined to allow five runs while getting five outs before Randy Myers got the final out for his 25th save in 28 opportunities.

The Yankees lost for just the fourth

time in 20 games but not without a fight. In addition to engaging in a beanball war, they rallied for five runs in the final two innings and had the tying run on deck when Myers got the final out.

Ortola 4, Angels 1
At Anaheim, Doug Drabek earned his first win in seven weeks and Rafael Palmeiro hit his 300th career homer as the Baltimore Orioles — the majors' only undefeated team since the All-Star break — defeated the Anaheim Angels, 4-1, for their ninth straight victory.

Drabek (6-9) allowed one run and three hits over 5 1/3 innings with a walk and four strikeouts.

Palmeiro, who drove in all four runs, put away the game in the eighth with a two-run homer to right that gave Baltimore a 4-1 lead.

White Sox 4, Indians 3
In Chicago, Robin Ventura belted a solo homer off Paul Shuey leading off the bottom of the ninth inning as the Chicago White Sox added to the Cleveland Indians' recent struggles with a 4-3 victory.

Cleveland had tied the game in the top of the ninth on an RBI single by Brian Giles. But Shuey (1-1) fell behind 1-0 to Ventura before the third baseman launched his 12th homer over the right-center field wall to end the game.

Tigers 6, Red Sox 4
In Detroit, Gabe Alvarez hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning and tied a career high with four RBI and fellow-rookie Brian Powell won his first major-league win as the streaking Detroit Tigers defeated the Boston Red Sox, 6-4.

Alvarez's fourth home run, off Korean rookie Jin Ho Cho (0-3), staked Detroit to a 5-2 lead.

Powell (1-1) allowed just two runs and four hits through six innings.

Detroit's Tony Clark went 3-for-3.

Rangers 7, Devil Rays 4
At Texas, Will Clark hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the seventh inning and drove in four runs and Darren Oliver tossed seven effective innings as the Texas Rangers stopped a five-game losing streak with a 7-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Randy Winn collected three hits for expansion Tampa Bay, which suffered its 13th loss in 15 games.

Twins 8, Athletics 7

In Oakland, Todd Walker singled home the go-ahead run with one out in the top of ninth inning as the Minnesota Twins rallied for seven runs over the final three innings and held on for a 8-7 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Walker, Matt Lawton and Otis Nixon had three hits apiece for the Twins, who pounded out 16 hits one night after being one-hit by Seattle's Randy Johnson.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	44	32	.577	0
New York	47	44	.516	14 1/2
Philadelphia	48	45	.516	14 1/2
Montreal	39	56	.411	24 1/2
Florida	36	59	.379	27 1/2

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	54	39	.580	0
Chicago	52	43	.547	4
San Francisco	47	47	.500	8 1/2
Cincinnati	45	51	.469	10 1/2
St. Louis	44	51	.463	12
Pittsburgh	43	53	.448	13 1/2

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	62	34	.646	0
San Diego	53	43	.552	9
Los Angeles	48	48	.500	14
Colorado	41	55	.427	21
Arizona	31	62	.337	28 1/2

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	47	23	.674	0
Boston	55	39	.585	14
Toronto	49	49	.500	22
Baltimore	41	58	.415	33 1/2
Tampa Bay	36	59	.379	33 1/2

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	53	41	.564	0
Minnesota	43	52	.453	10 1/2
Kansas City	42	53	.442	10 1/2
Chicago	42	54	.438	12
Detroit	40	53	.430	12 1/2

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	52	43	.547	0
Texas	51	44	.540	1
San Diego	45	50	.474	7
Seattle	44	53	.454	9

Thursday's NL games: Montreal 10, Pittsburgh 3; Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Mets 2; Atlanta 4, Milwaukee 3; Los Angeles 8, St. Louis 2.

Friday's NL games: Pittsburgh 5, Montreal 1; Cincinnati 6, Florida 1; San Diego 13, Chicago 3; N.Y. Mets 6, Philadelphia 0; Atlanta 4, Milwaukee 1; Houston 10, San Francisco 7; St. Louis 4, Los Angeles 1; Arizona 9, Colorado 6.

Thursday's AL games: Toronto 5, Chicago White Sox 2; Oakland 5, Kansas City 3; Detroit 3, N.Y. Yankees 1; Boston 15, Cleveland 5; Baltimore 9, Texas 3; Seattle 3, Minnesota 0; Tampa Bay 8, Anaheim 1.

Friday's AL games: Detroit 6, Boston 4; Toronto 9, N.Y. Yankees 6; Chicago White Sox 4, Cleveland 3; Texas 7, Tampa Bay 4; Seattle 18, Kansas City 5; Baltimore 4, Anaheim 1; Minnesota 8, Oakland 7.

SPORTS

in brief

More swimming records fall

Two more national records, including one of 14 years' standing, fell on the last day of the swimming event of the Youth Olympics in Moscow on Friday.

In the 800 meters freestyle, 15-year-old Adi Bichman, ripped over ten seconds off the time set in 1984 by Hador Rubinstein. Bichman's new time was 8:52.96 against the previous time of 9:03.17. The result added a bronze medal to her array from the competition.

The women's relay team was responsible for the second record in the 4x100m medley. The new time of 4:23.04 broke the previous record of 4:27.41.

The individual times recorded were 1:07.11 for Tal Speizer (backstroke), 1:14.02 for Mika Schatz (breaststroke), 1:02.42 for Vered Borochovsky (butterfly) and 59.49 for Bichman in the freestyle. Sivan Rol placed fourth in the synchronized swimming event.

Heather Chait

South Africa beat Australia 14-13

PERTH (Reuters) — South Africa beat Australia 14-13 in a tense Tri-Nations match yesterday that was dominated by tactical kicking on a slippery Subiaco Oval.

South Africa scored only one try to the Wallabies' two tries, but poor place kicking by Australian full-back Mathew Burke cost his side crucial points in the home and away series.

Vogts to stay on as German national coach

BONN (Reuters) — Germany's soccer coach Bert Vogts is to continue to lead and take sole responsibility for the national side, the German Soccer Federation (DFB) said yesterday.

"The DFB committee have stated their full trust in trainer Bert Vogts for the rebuilding of the national team," the DFB said.

The statement followed a so-called "crisis meeting" held to discuss the future of the national side after a disappointing performance at the World Cup.

Celtic bring Venglos back to Britain

GLASGOW (Reuters) — Scottish champions Celtic appointed Jozef Venglos as head coach on Friday, bringing back to Britain the man who in 1990 became the first foreigner to manage a top English club when he was in charge of Aston Villa.

Venglos, a 62-year-old Slovak with a doctorate in physical education and psychology, replaces Dutchman Wim Jansen who resigned in May after leading the Glasgow club to their first league title for 10 years.

Schumacher signs with Ferrari through 2002

MARANELLO (AP) — Formula One driver Michael Schumacher extended his contract Friday with Ferrari for three years, keeping him with the Italian race car company through 2002. According to published reports in Germany Schumacher would get about \$42 million a year under the new contract.

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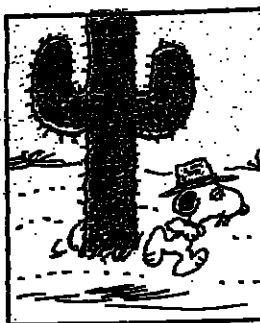
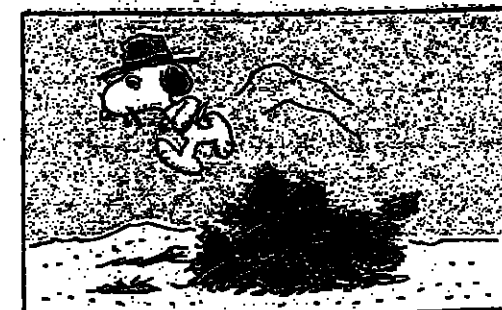
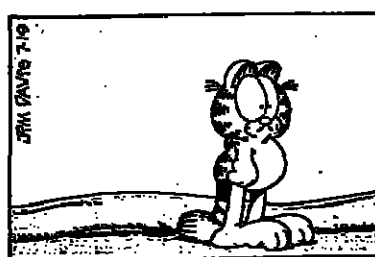
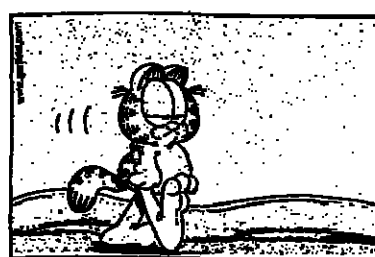
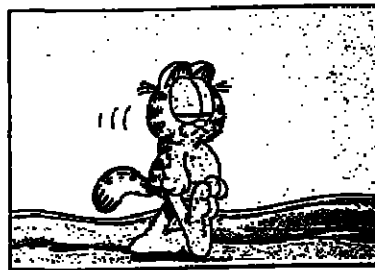
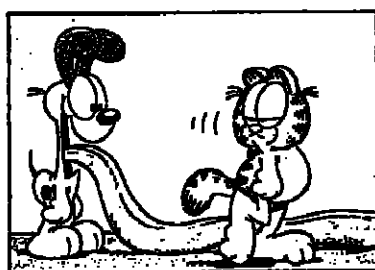
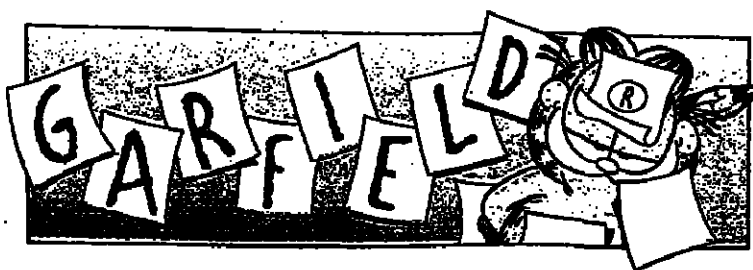
SERVICE FOR TOURISTS/Diplomat/Oleh. Storage-buying-selling-exchange, buying in installments. Need help when buying car from tourist? Call us 052-214-262 (Mark), 03-527-0621. [789157]

VW GOLF GTI, 1990, 2 door, manual, power windows/steering, air conditioning, car in good condition, guaranteed. \$4,900. Tel. 052-214-262 (Mark), Tel. 03-527-0621 (call any time). [789157]

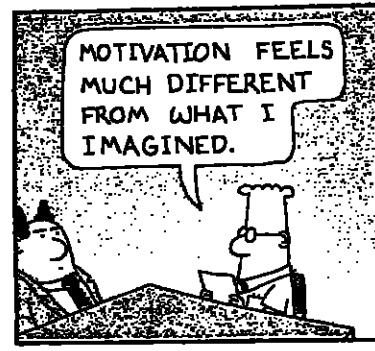
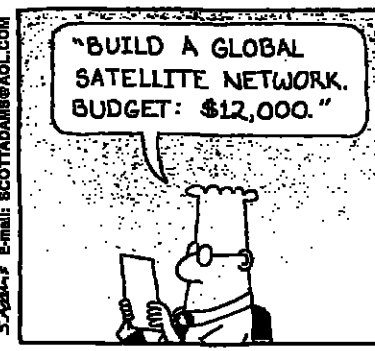
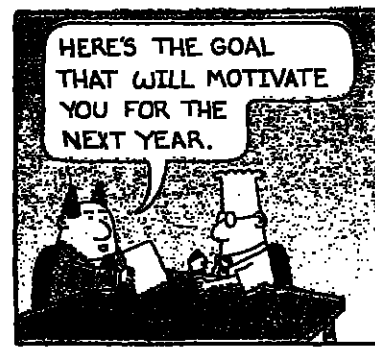
UNRESTRICTED
I BUY TAX FREE or unrestricted cars, any models for cash, straight deal, no tricks, trade in, shipping, storage, any distance. Collin. Tel. 09-742-9517, 052-423-327. [789157]

VEHICLES
Jerusalem

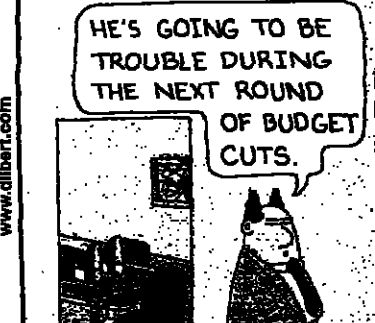
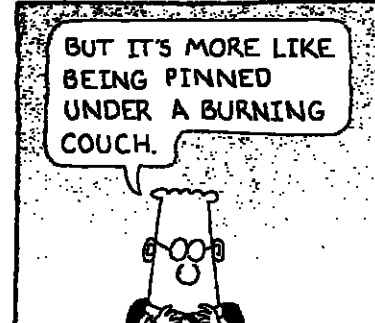
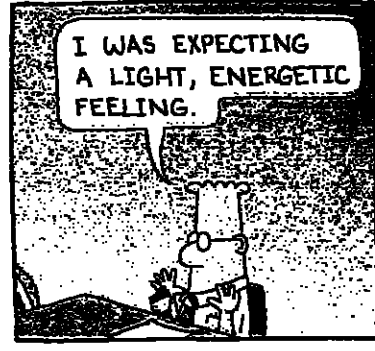
PASSPORT
1997 MITSUBISHI SUPER LANCER station, GLX, CD/radio, A/C, automatic, alarm + immobilizer, 25,000 km, excellent condition. Tel. 02-991-0642, 052-675-207. [789157]



DILBERT

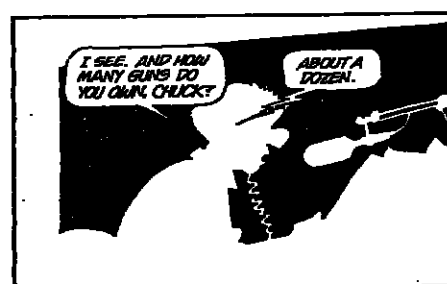


BY SCOTT ADAMS

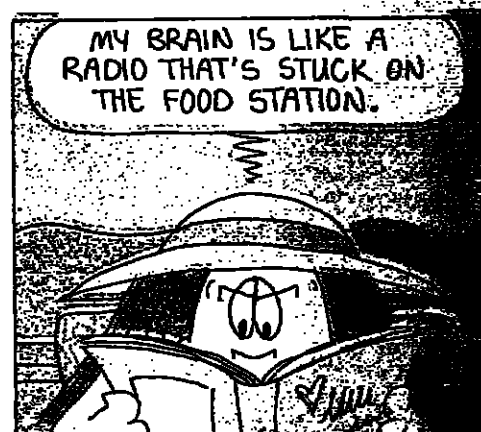
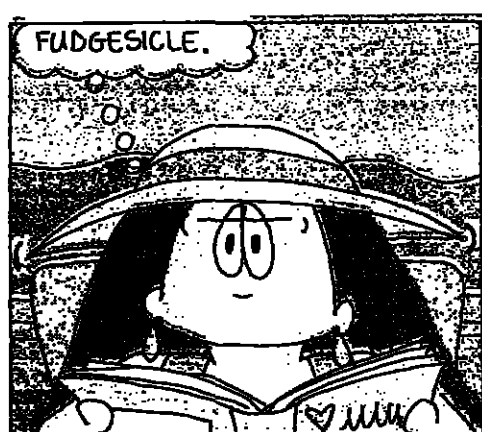
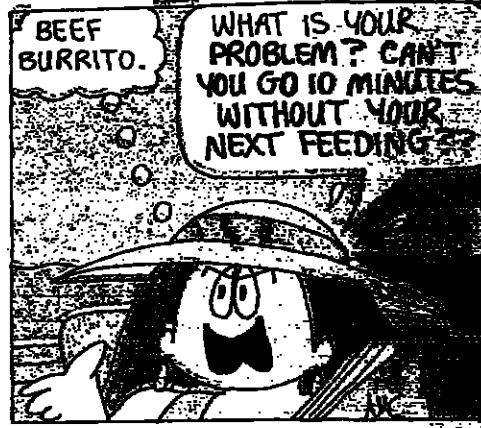
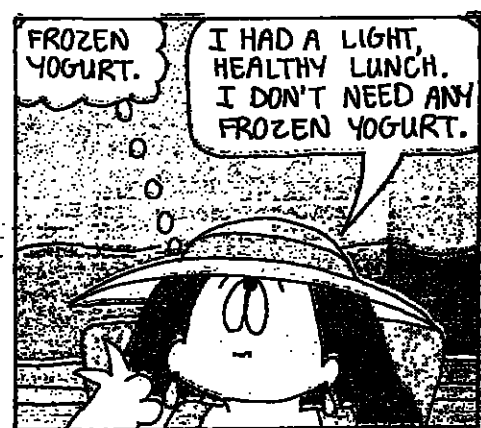
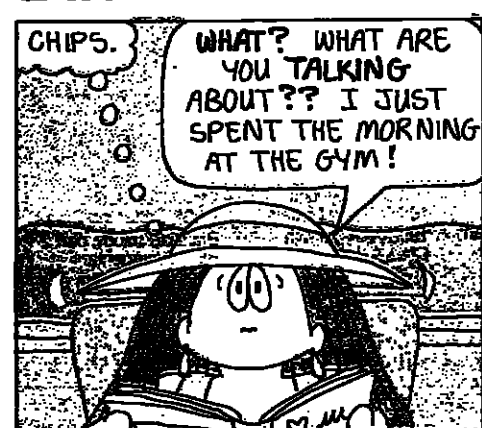


Doonesbury

G.B. TRUDEAU

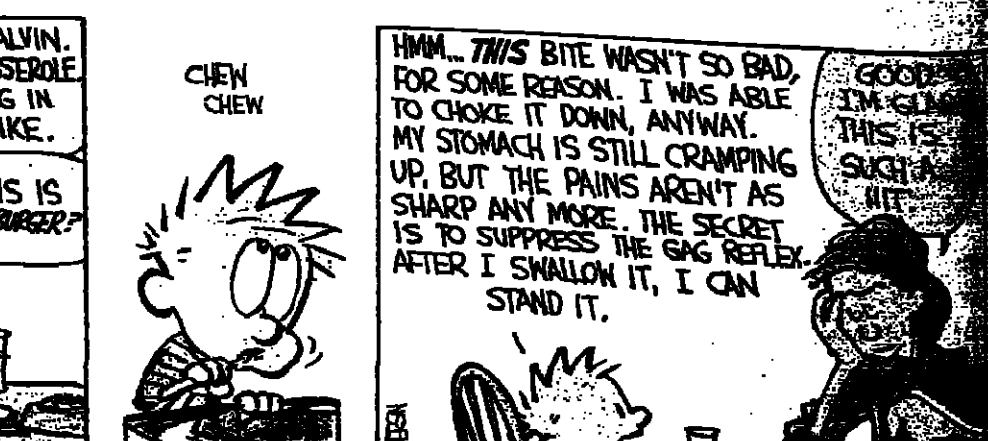
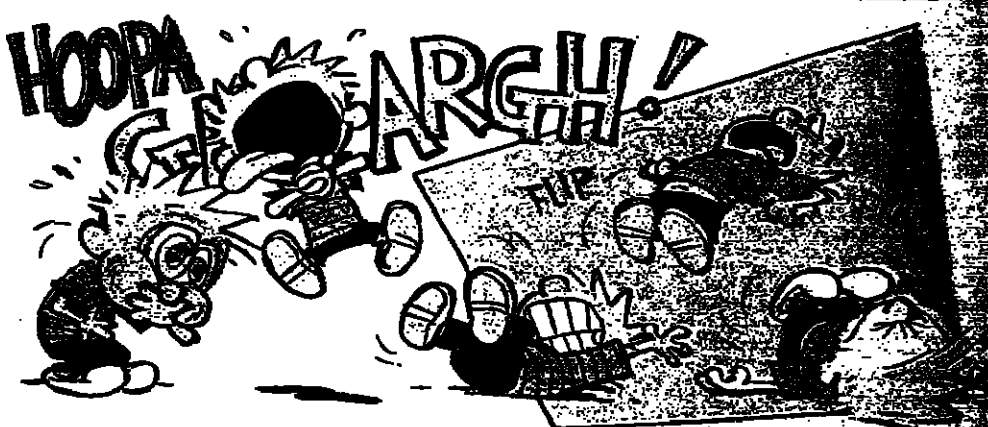
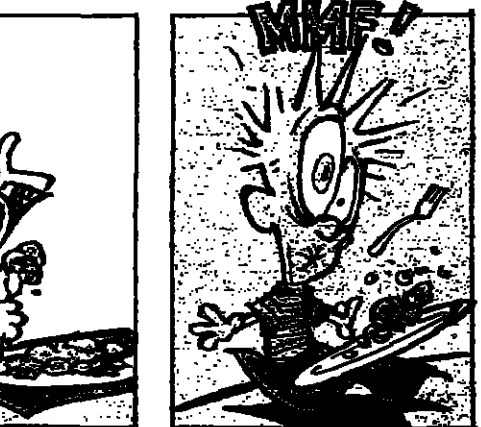
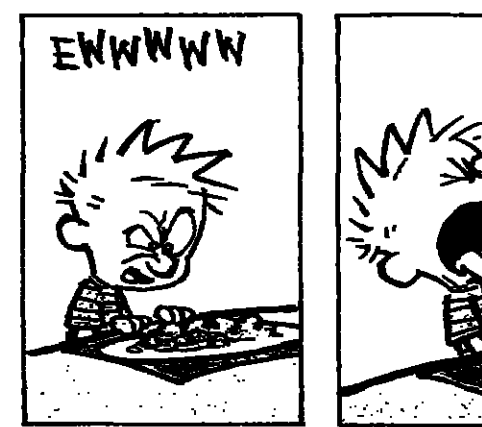
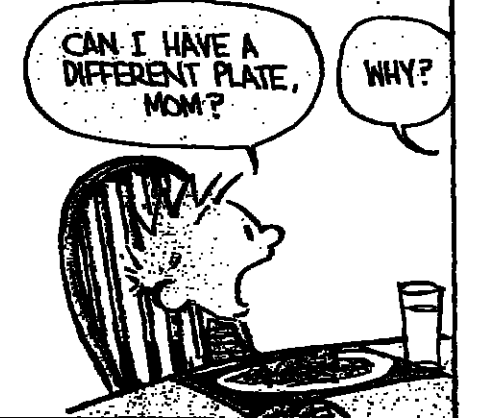


CATHY



Calvin and Hobbes

by WATSON



CRITICS' CHOICE



Lee Evans (left) and Nathan Lane have little success in catching the rodent in 'Mouse Hunt.'

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's Beethoven festival continues tonight at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv with Zubin Mehta conducting the Second and Seventh Symphonies and Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires playing the composer's second piano concerto at 8:30 p.m.

Justino Diaz presents a master class at the Israel Music Conservatory tonight at 7 p.m. as part of the summer program of the Israel Vocal Arts Institute.

Tomorrow's master class at the same time and place will be given by the program director Joan Domenech.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** **MOUSE HUNT** - In this darkly fantastical children's film, two dim-witted brothers (Nathan Lane and Lee Evans) inherit a creaky old mansion from their late father and set about fixing it up. Almost immediately, though, they find themselves battered, bruised and totally outsmarted by the single wily rodent who lives in the house and doesn't take kindly to their bumbling attempts at pest control. The movie relies for its humor on a simple joke of scale: two big clumsy humans are no match at all for this one little mouse who seems to have Zeus-

like powers of destruction at his caddy, pink-noised command. The film has a light slapstick rhythm and pleasantly antique look and features a few inspired scenes in which we see the mayhem from the mouse's point of view. Nails the size of zeppelins come crashing through a wall in hilarious slow motion and a narrow passage between rusty pipes takes on the look of the Holland Tunnel. With Christopher Walken, ratty and intense as Caesar the exterminator. (General audiences)

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The Movie Channel is showing a series of classic film noir movies this week in its lunchtime slot. Even if the times are not convenient for those of us who have day jobs, setting the VCR is worth the effort. French film critics named American crime films of the genre that draws from expressionism and gangster movies "dark films" as they examine the darker side of life in the cities. Not to be missed are *Crack-Up*, today at 1:10 p.m., about an art expert who remembers a train crash that never happened; Nicholas Ray's first film, *They Live By Night*, tomorrow at 2:15 p.m.; *The Big Combo* with Brian Donlevy on Tuesday at 1:05 p.m.; *The Set-Up*, about an honest washed up boxer, on Wednesday at 1:15 p.m.; and *Farwell My Lovely* (also known as *Murder My Sweet*) on Thursday at 1:20 p.m., followed by *Born to Kill* at 2:55 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News Flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel
10:00 Comedy series

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Animation
8:45 Hubberdy Dick
10:10 Hot Shots
10:35 Desperate Haven
11:00 Time Exposure
11:25 Hot Science
11:50 Pledge
12:00 Vodcast TV
14:30 Star Trek - Deep Space 9
15:15 SpaceShip Earth

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Zep Free
15:35 X-Men
15:55 Zap Country
16:00 Vacation
16:05 Lasso
16:30 Zap Chevrolet Festival
16:45 Zap Seaside
16:50 Zap Evening
17:35 Zap Free
17:50 USA High
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 News in Arabic
18:35 News in Russian
19:00 For Women Only
20:30 Teleshop
21:00 News
21:05 News Flash
21:45 Supremacy
21:50 Mystic
22:15 Play Backstage
Theater

ETV 2 (23)

16:30 Boogie Diner
16:30 Vacation Studio
16:45 Local Pop
17:00 Mosaic
17:10 Moroccan
17:20 Mosaic
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17:40 Moroccan
17:50 Moroccan
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24:00 Moroccan

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Sea
6:00 Iron Man
6:30 Choco with Tel-Aviv
6:30 Jazari
6:35 Choco with Tel-Aviv
11:15 Harry and the Hendersons
11:40 Comedy Store
11:45 Comedy Store
11:50 Comedy Store
12:00 Comedy Store
12:05 Comedy Store
12:10 Comedy Store
12:15 Comedy Store
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23:35 Comedy Store
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23:45 Comedy Store
23:50 Comedy Store
24:00 Comedy Store

CHANNEL 3

7:00 ETV
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live (pt)
9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Angels Don't Cry
12:00 Ricki Lake - reruns
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:15 Judge Judy
15:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
16:30 Days of Our Lives
17:00 The Other Half
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24:00 The Other Half

JORDAN TV (31)

(unconfirmed)
15:00 Holy Quran
16:10 The Dinosaur
16:30 Skippy
16:50 The Show
17:10 World of Nature
18:00 French Show
19:00 Le Journal

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Only Today
(Hebrew, 1976)
Zefar
Rebels directing debut.

SECOND SHOWING

22:30 Flynn (1986)
- Australian biopic of Errol

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 The Brave Children
16:30 Short and Sweet
17:00 Weekly Column
18:00 News in Arabic
18:35 News in Russian
19:00 For Women Only
20:30 Teleshop
21:00 News
21:05 News Flash
21:45 Supremacy
21:50 Mystic
22:15 Play Backstage
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23:45 Comedy Store
23:50 Comedy Store
24:00 Comedy Store

JORDAN TV (31)

(unconfirmed)
15:00 Holy Quran
16:10 The Dinosaur
16:30 Skippy
16:50 The Show
17:10 World of Nature
18:00 French Show
19:00 Le Journal

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Only Today
(Hebrew, 1976)
Zefar
Rebels directing debut.

SECOND SHOWING

22:30 Flynn (1986)
- Australian biopic of Errol

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 The Brave Children
16:30 Short and Sweet
17:00 Weekly Column
18:00 News in Arabic
18:35 News in Russian
19:00 For Women Only
20:30 Teleshop
21:00 News
21:05 News Flash
21:45 Supremacy
21:50 Mystic
22:15 Play Backstage
Theater

ETV 2 (23)

16:30 Boogie Diner
16:30 Vacation Studio
16:45 Local Pop
17:00 Mosaic
17:10 Moroccan
17:20 Mosaic
17:30 Moroccan
17:40 Moroccan
17:50 Moroccan
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24:00 Moroccan

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Sea
6:00 Iron Man
6:30 Choco with Tel-Aviv
6:30 Jazari
6:35 Choco with Tel-Aviv
11:15 Harry and the Hendersons
11:40 Comedy Store
11:45 Comedy Store
11:50 Comedy Store
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JORDAN TV (31)

(unconfirmed)
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MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Only Today
(Hebrew, 1976)
Zefar
Rebels directing debut.

